the SHADOW

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ISSUE #55

JFK ASSASSINATION 50 YEARS LATER:

COUP D'ETAT IN AMERICA!

the SHADOW
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THE JFK ASSASSINATION: DEFENDING THE GANGSTER STATE

By Michael Parenti

Today, in the much vaunted western democracies, there exists a great deal of unaccountable state power whose primary function is to maintain the existing politico economic structure, using surveillance, infiltration, sabotage, judicial harassment, disinformation, trumped up charges and false arrests, tax harassment, blackmail, and even violence and assassination to make the world safe for those who own it.

"BUFFS" AND COVER UPS

There exists a state within the state, known as the national security state, a component of misgovernment centering around top officers in the CIA, DIA, FBI, NSA, the Pentagon, and policymakers in the Executive Office of the White House. These elements have proven themselves capable of perpetrating terrible crimes against dissidents at home and abroad. National security state agencies like the CIA, in the service of dominant economic interests, have enlisted the efforts of mobsters, drug traffickers, assassins, and torturers, systematically targeting peasant leaders, intellectuals, journalists, student leaders, clergy, labor union leaders, workers, and community activists in numerous countries. Hundreds of thousands of people have been murdered to prevent social change, to destroy any government or social movement that manifests an unwillingness to reduce its people to economic fodder for the giant corporations that rule the world's economy. [1]

Occasionally, an incident occurs that reveals in an unusually vivid manner the gangster nature of the state. The assassination of President John Kennedy on November 22, 1963 is such an occasion. The dirty truth is that Kennedy was heartily hated by right wing forces in this country, including many powerful people in the intelligence organizations. He had betrayed the national interest, as they defined it, by refusing to go all out against Cuba, making overtures of rapprochement with Castro, and refusing to escalate the ground war in Vietnam. They also saw him as an anti business liberal who was taking the country down the wrong path. Whether Kennedy really was all that liberal is another matter. I don't believe he was. But what the national security rightists saw him to be was what counted.

To know the truth about the assassination of John Kennedy is to call into question the state security system and the entire politico economic order it protects. This is why for fifty years the corporate owned press and numerous political leaders have suppressed or attacked the many revelations about the murder unearthed by independent investigators like Mark Lane, Carl Oglesby, Harold Weisberg, Anthony Summers, Philip Melanson, Jim Garrison, Cyril Wecht, Jim Marrs, Gaeton Fonzi, James DiEugenio, Peter Dale Scott, Sylvia Meagher, Michael Canfield, Gary Aguilar, and still many others more recently.

These investigators have been described as "assassination buffs." The term "buff" is a diminishing characterization, describing someone who pursues odd hobbies. For the same reason that we would not refer to "Holocaust buffs," so should we not refer to these serious investigators as "assassination buffs." Their efforts reveal a conspiracy to assassinate the president and an even more extensive conspiracy to hide the crime.

Sociologist David Simone compiled a study of the books published on the Kennedy assassination, some 600 titles, and found that 20 percent of them blamed either a lone assassin or the mafia or the Cubans or Russians. The other 80 percent ascribed the assassination to a conspiracy linked to U.S. intelligence agencies, some of these also saying that mobsters were involved at the operational level. Ignoring this 80 percent of the literature, publications like the New York Times and Washington Post have listed the various theories about the JFK assassination as follows: (a) lone assassin, (b) mafia, (c) Cubans/Soviets, and (d) the "Oliver Stone movie theory." In other words, they ignore the existence of a vast amount of literature from which the Oliver Stone movie JFK is derived and ascribe the critical theme presented within the film solely to the imagination of a film maker. The mainstream press would have us believe that the notion of a state sponsored assassination conspiracy and cover up came out of a movie when actually the movie was based on a rich and revealing investigative literature.

Like the Warren Commission itself, the press assumed a priori that Oswald was the killer. The only question it asked was: Did Oswald act alone? The answer was a loudly orchestrated YES. Meanwhile, almost every in depth investigator had a different conclusion: Oswald did not act at all. He was not one of the people who shot Kennedy, although he was involved in another way, as a fall guy, in his own words "just a patsy."

The U.S. mainstream media have been tireless in their efforts to suppress the truth about the gangster state. In 1978, when a House Select Committee concluded that there was more than one assassin involved in the Kennedy shooting, the Washington Post (1/6/79) editorialized:

"Could it have been some other malcontent who Mr. Oswald met casually? Could not as much as three or four societal outcasts with no ties to any one organization have developed in some spontaneous way a common determination to express their alienation in the killing of President Kennedy? It is possible that two persons acting independently attempted to shoot the President at the very same time."

It is "possible," but also most unlikely and barely imaginable. Instead of a conspiracy theory, the Post creates a one in a billion "coincidence theory," that is the most fanciful of all explanations.

IGNORED EVIDENCE, UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

David Garrow, author of The FBI and Martin Luther King Jr, condescendingly says: "A large majority of the American people do believe in assassination conspiracies. That allows events to have large mysterious causes instead of small idiosyncratic ones." Contrary to Garrow, the question of whether a conspiracy exists in any particular situation has to be decided by an investigation of evidence, not by patronizing presumptions about the public mind. Investigators who concluded there were conspiracies in the Kennedy and King murders did not fashion "large mysterious causes," but came to their conclusions through painstaking probes of troubling discrepancies, obvious lies, and blatant cover ups. They have been impelled not by the need to fashion elaborate theories, but by the search for particular explanations about some simple and compelling truths.

Many people talk about finding the "smoking gun" behind this or that mystery, the one evidentiary item that dramatically resolves the case and puts to rest all further questions. Unlike fictional mysteries, in real life there usually is no smoking gun. Historians work by a process of accretion, putting piece by piece together until a picture emerges. In the Kennedy murder, the pieces make an imposing picture indeed, leaving one with the feeling that while there may not be a smoking gun, there is a whole fusillade of impossibilities regarding the flight of bullets, the nature of the wounds, the ignored testimony of eye witnesses, the sudden and mysterious deaths of witnesses, the disappearance and deliberate destruction of evidence, and the repeated acts of official cover up that continue to this day regarding the release of documents.

Let us focus on just a small part of the immense brief that has been assembled by investigators. Consider the background of Lee Harvey Oswald. Over the decades, to this very day, mainstream commentators have been telling us that Oswald was an incompetent "loner" and not very bright. Gerald Posner, author of Cased Closed, transforming himself into an instant psychiatric expert, announced that Oswald "had a very disturbed childhood, and he was a passive aggressive." A passive aggressive assassin? He was also repeatedly labeled a "loner" and a "leftist." The truth is something else.

Lee Harvey Oswald spent most of his adult life not as a lone drifter but directly linked to the U.S. intelligence community. All of his IQ tests show that he was above average in intelligence and a quick learner. At the age of eighteen in the U.S. Marines, he had secret security clearance and was working at Marine Air Control in Atsugi Air Force Base in Japan, a top secret location from which the CIA launched U2 flights

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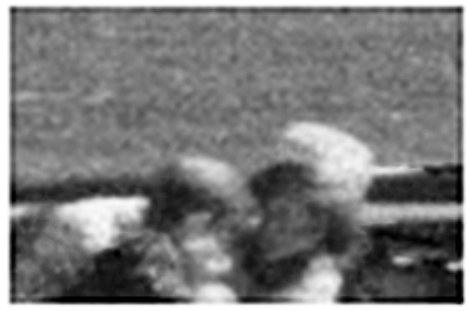
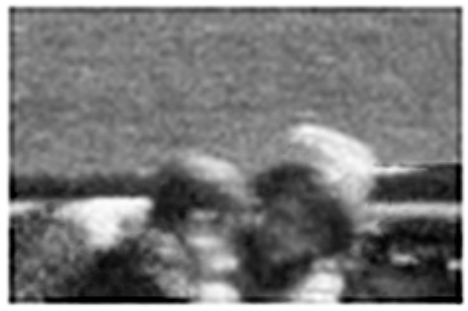
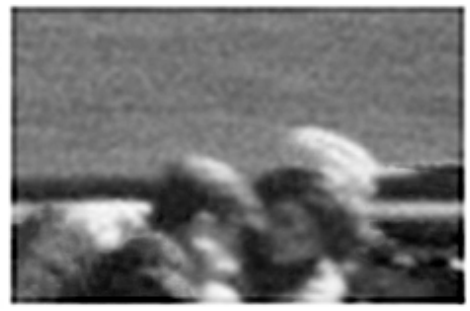




EDITORIAL

THE HONEYMOON IS OVER: THE HANGOVER BEGINS

America Grows Weary of Barack Obama

By A. Kronstadt

Barack Obama has finally replaced George W. Bush as the human face of government arrogance in America. Only the people who are usually defined or dismissed as "radical", be it on the right, the left, or the anarchist part of the political spectrum, would have predicted this in 2008 when Obama was elected. Obama was then regarded as something akin to a Rooseveltian savior whose supporters expected him to clean up the Republican stable, or slaughterhouse, left behind by his predecessor G. W. Bush. Even we on the left were smitten by him to some extent—it is no trifle after all that a black man, whether or not he was African American in the sense of the tens of millions of African Americans in the U.S., could even get elected in the first place. It had to be a sign of progress, right? Not only did Obama awaken at least to some extent the sleeping giant of the Black vote, but got enough votes even from timid white fold to put him over the top. In the mainstream press, Obama's election was actually hailed as heralding a "post racial" nirvana in the U.S.

The following is a brief assessment of Obama's first five years from the standpoint of the rest of us ordinary people:

GRAVEDIGGER OF OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE

Obama's first term performance on the economic front was appreciated by Wall Street, and therefore by the media. By appointing Timothy Geithner, a representative of the major brokers, as Treasury Secretary, and letting him shovel the taxpayer's dollar into the flickering furnaces of the stock exchange, the semblance of a recovery was achieved from the standpoint of the investor. The Dow went up and the opportunity for scheming and speculation returned, and that is all that those rich people care about.

The average working person, however, is more familiar with the rise in payroll tax, from 4.2% to 6.2% on average, that kicked in on January 1, 2013, than with Obama's miracle on Wall Street. The spin that Obama tried to place on this was that it was the Republicans' tax cuts expiring and that we should blame Bush & Co. for making the cuts temporary. But Obama was already going on his second term, and nobody remembered Bush anymore. Between forking over our money to banks that were "too big to fail" and letting our tax burden soar, he is telling the American workers that they are "too small to matter." Every measure that Obama has instituted to revive the economy has involved a transfusion of the blood of the working class into the veins of the ruling rich. What is buoying the economy now is cutbacks, outsourcing, and shifting the tax burden from the small minority of rich playboys onto the hard working people who are still lucky enough to be making a living.

Here is a tidbit of news to illustrate Obama's performance with respect to the people who have only their own working abilities to invest in the economy (from MSN Money, July 26, 2013):

"Researchers say lighter paychecks and more young men out of work added up to a decline in U.S. beer sales for the first half of this year.

In a newly released note quoted by CNBC, analysts at Berstein Research said overall beer sales fell by 3% during the first three months of 2013 and are down 2.6% for the year so far.

"We believe that there has been a deterioration in the economic well being of the lower income consumer," the note said, "with the pay roll tax hike having taken its toll and a marked up tick in unemployment among young men.""

The second Great Depression has wiped out security for everyone who didn't establish themselves long ago. Nobody even expects the generation presently in high school or college to be a generation of middle class people like the WW II generation or the baby boomers. The press, schools, and the entire propaganda machine have been hammering into the kids' heads that you should not expect much and should not study risky or impractical subjects in school because you will have to cut other people's throats in order to survive. Chances are, in the long term, the younger people growing up today will not own houses or become yuppies like the late baby boomers or the Generation X-ers. Although the economic downturn started under G.W. Bush, the sense of resignation has steadily increased under Obama.

Even his Obamacare program making it easier for the unemployed to obtain benefits is merely a gesture of resignation to the extent of unemployment and its persistence. Right wing opponents of Obamacare are correct to point out the repressive aspect of levying fines against unemployed people who decline to sign up for health insurance. Furthermore, the whole program is a handout to parasitic insurance companies and HMOs. Obama never had the guts to suggest a universal single payer healthcare system which would cut us all loose from these insurance companies that serve no purpose.

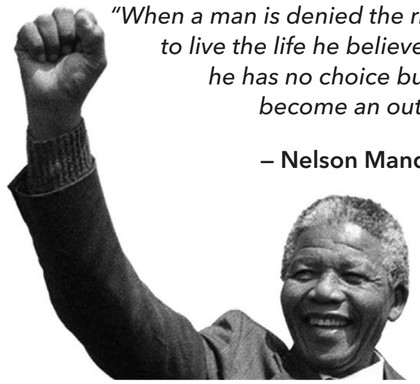
YES WE CAN! TURNS INTO YES WE SCAN!

It is Operation Prism that is ruining Obama with his own constituency. The revelations concerning the massive spying program run by the National Security Agency have made Watergate look like a drop in the bucket—Nixon only broke into one hotel room, while it turns out that Obama is breaking into all of our communications. In 2008, we expected Obama to be honest with us and bring on a period of perestroika in which the underhandedness of the Bush Administration would be undone. However, Edward Snowden had to risk the death penalty and become a man without a country in order to let us know the extent of spying by the Obama administration. If anything, the Wikileaks and Snowden revelations that occurred under Obama's watch prove that we cannot trust any elected officials to give us the information that we need in order to make socially responsible decisions, and that this can only be obtained via clandestine direct action in the style of Assange and Snowden.

In the information age, the Democrats have proven to be more repressive than the Republicans. This became evident during the Clinton Administration when Democrats sponsored, with White House

Continued on page 22

NELSON MANDELA: 1918–2013



"When a man is denied the right to live the life he believes in, he has no choice but to become an outlaw."

– Nelson Mandela

NELSON MANDELA: 1918—2013

By Dhoruba Bin-Wahad

There is a saying by another historical and Revolutionary personality of color, who once wrote to "die in service to imperialism is lighter than a feather, but to die in cause of freedom is heavier than a Mountain". When Nelson Mandela came to the US after his release from prison in 1990, the State Department didn't want him to come to Harlem, except in the company of Black elected officials, like Mitt man [Congressman] Charles Rangel, and only address an exclusive audience of Black elites and stars. It was Baba Elombe Brath, whose long relationship with ANC [African National Congress] leaders persuaded Mandela to stand before the Harlem Masses and exhibit his solidarity with our Political Prisoners and the Puerto Rican Prisoners of war.

Having just been released from prison myself, I had the honor and the privilege to introduce Modiba to my community, my people, the African Diaspora of Harlem. We placed the dais on the same corner where Malcolm X and Marcus Garvey once lectured to the people of Harlem. It was a moving moment for me, and judging by the faces of the Secret Service Agents and NYPD BOSSI [Bureau Of Special Services and Investigations], handlers of the Mandela entourage, not so good a scene for the State Department.

We should all keep in mind while celebrating the life and sacrifice of Mandela, that history makes men and women while men and woman fashion the historical moment. Mandela is a global iconic leader because he publicly forgave and absolved global white supremacy, not because he liberated Africans. Indeed, the same features of European settler ownership of mineral rich lands hasn't changed in South Africa. SA workers are still exploited by international finance capitalism's exploitation of SA resources. No one goes from Prison to President of a strategic geopolitical territory without a script and Director. To enter the community of nations dominated by Western Finance Capital and former imperial powers the script was bogus reconciliation and democratic fascism.

Mandela's legacy is the Africa we see now not because he wanted it this way but because the very forces that praise him today are the same ones who deny Africans in the US, UK, France, Italy and throughout the western world economic, political and social freedom, who close their borders to those fleeing the consequences of imperial exploitation of the African continent.

Yes, all of these hypocrites, from Obama to Oprah to Jay Zee will undoubtedly show up at his funeral to get themselves etched into the margins of a historical moment, but for those of us who struggled on the front lines, who populated the prisons, and were part of the whirlwind of revolutionary struggle, we can celebrate the fact that we were fortunate to be on the same side of the barricades against racism, capitalism and imperialism. Long Live African Freedom Fighters!

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THE MANDELA BARBIE

By Greg Palast

I can't take it anymore. All week, I've watched Nelson Mandela reduced to a Barbie doll. From Fox News to the Bush family, the politicians and media mavens who body-blocked the anti-Apartheid Movement and were happy to keep Mandela behind bars, now get to dress his image up in any silly outfit they choose.

Poor Mandela. When he's not a doll, he's a statue. He joins Martin Luther King as another bronzed monument whose use is to tell us that apartheid is now "defeated"—to quote the ridiculous headline in the Times.

It's more nauseating than hypocrisy and ignorance. The Mandela Barbie is dressed to serve a new version of racism, Apartheid 2.0, worsening both in South Africa—and in the USA.

The ruling class creates commemorative dolls and statues of revolutionary leaders as a way to tell us their cause is won, so go home. For example, just months ago, the US Supreme Court overturned the Voting Rights Act, Dr. King's greatest accomplishment, on the specious claim that, "Blatantly discriminatory evasions are rare," and Jim Crow voting practices are now "eradicated."

"Eradicated?" On what planet? The latest move by Florida Republicans to purge 181,000 voters of color—like the stench from the shantytowns of Cape Town—makes clear that neither Jim Crow nor Apartheid has been defeated. They're just in temporary retreat.

Nevertheless, our betters in the USA and Europe have declared that King slew segregation, Mandela defeated apartheid; and therefore, the new victims of racial injustice should just shut the f$#! up and stop whining.

THE MAN WHO WALKED BESIDE MANDELA

To replace the plastic and metal Mandelas with flesh and blood, I spoke to Danny Schechter. Schechter knew Mandela personally, and more deeply, than any other American journalist. "One of the great reporters of our generation, Schechter produced South Africa Now, a weekly program for PBS Television stations, from 1988–91, bringing Mandela's case to Americans dumbed and numbed on by Ronald Reagan's red-baiting.

Schechter has just completed the difficult job of making the official documentary companion to the Hollywood version of Mandela's life, Long Walk to Freedom.

The fictional movie is about triumph and forgiveness. Schechter's documentary, Inside Mandela, has this aplenty, but knowing Mandela, Schechter includes Mandela's anger, despair and his pained legacy: a corroded South Africa still ruled by a brutal economic apartheid. Today, the average white family has five times the income of a black family. Welcome to "freedom."

The US and European press have focused on Mandela's saintly ability to abjure bitterness and all desire for revenge, and for his Christ-like forgiving of his captors. This is to reassure us all that "good" revolutionaries are ones who don't hold anyone to account for murder, plunder and blood-drenched horror—or demand compensation. That's Mandela in his Mahatma Gandhi doll outfit—turning the other cheek, kissing his prison wardens.

Schechter doesn't play with dolls. He knew Mandela the man—and Mandela as one among a group of revolutionary leaders. Mandela's circle knew this: You can't forgive those you defeat until you defeat them.

And, despite the hoo-hah, Mandela didn't defeat apartheid with "nice" alone. In the 1980s, says Schechter, South African whites faced this reality: The Cubans who defeated South African troops in neighboring Angola were ready to move into South Africa. The Vietnamese who had defeated the mighty USA were advising Mandela's military force.

And so, while Mandela held out a hand in forgiveness—in his other hand he held Umkhonto we Sizwe,a spear to apartheid's heart. And Mandela's comrades tied a noose: an international embargo, leaky though it was, that lay siege to South Africa's economy.

Seeing the writing on the wall (and envisioning their blood on the floor), the white-owned gold and diamond cartels, Anglo-American and DeBeers, backed by the World Bank, came to Mandela with a bargain: black Africans could have voting power . . . but not economic power.

Mandela chose to shake hands with this devil and accept the continuation of economic apartheid. In return for safeguarding the diamond and gold interests and protecting white ownership of land, mines and businesses, he was allowed the presidency, or at least the office and title.

It is a bargain that ate at Mandela's heart. He was faced with the direct threat of an embargo of capital, and taking note of the beating endured by his Cuban allies over resource nationalization, Mandela swallowed the poison with a forced grin. Yes, a new South African black middle class has been handed a slice of the mineral pie, but that just changes the color of the hand holding the whip.

THE 1% RAINBOW

In the end, all revolutions are about one thing: the 99% versus the 1%. Time and history can change the hue of the aristocrat, but not their greed, against which Mandela appeared nearly powerless.

So was Mandela's life a waste, his bio-pic a fraud? Not at all. No man is a revolution.

We have much to learn from Mandela's long view of history, his much-lauded pacific warm-heartedness as well as his much-concealed cold and cruel resolve. The crack in the prison wall of apartheid, the end of racial warfare, if not yet racial peace, is a real accomplishment of Mandela—and his comrade revolutionaries—most of whose names will never be cast in bronze.

Reading Schechters' new book Madiba (as Mandela is known to Black South Africans) and seeing Schechter's un-Hollywood film, you can take away one strong impression: From Moses to Martin to Mandela, our prophets never reach the Promised Land.

That is for us still to accomplish. The journey is long. Start walking.

[Forensic economist Greg Palast, author of The New York Times best-seller Billionaires & Ballot Bandits, is a Puffin Foundation Fellow for Investigative Reporting. His film of investigative reports for BBC-TV, Vultures & Vote Rustlers, was released this week on DVD. www.GregPalast.com.]

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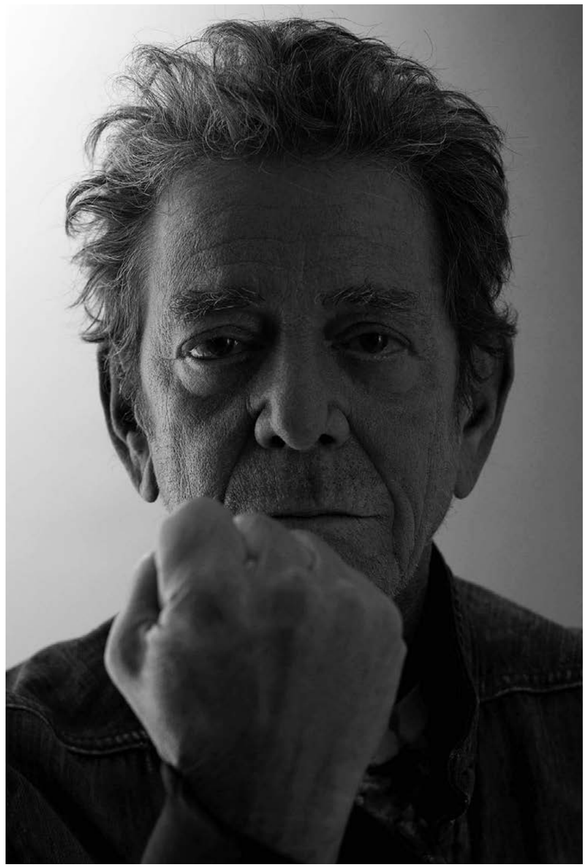
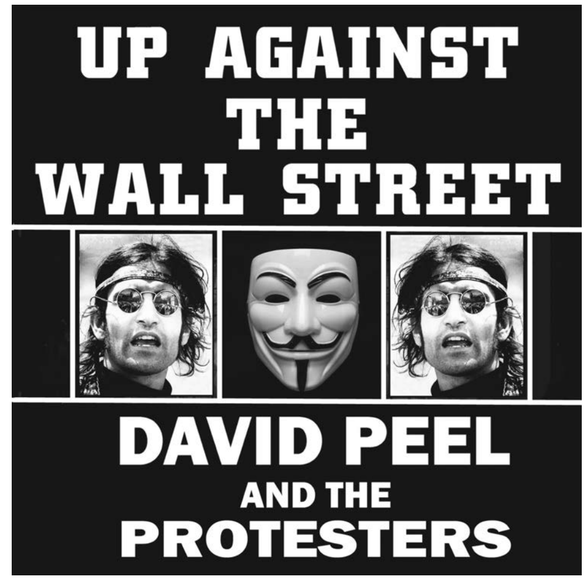
LOU REED: 1942–2013



You better hold on something's happening here,
You better hold on I'll meet you in Tompkins Square.
You better hold on something's happening here,
You better hold on there's a riot in Tompkins Square.

"Hold On," *New York*, 1989



BILL DEBLASIO AND NEW YORK CITY'S CLINTONGATE SCANDAL: A Tale of Three Phonies

By Bob Feldman

"Mr. de Blasio becomes Mrs. Clinton's campaign manager during an uneasy period for her campaign…, Mrs. Clinton, who has never lived in New York, came to New York City to announce that she was indeed going to run for office... In Mr. de Blasio, Mrs. Clinton chose someone who…grew up in New York a point that was prominently mentioned in the single page news release announcing the appointment…"

–The New York Times, December 4, 1999

In September 2013, when asked by *The New Yorker* magazine editor David Remnick to indicate "what sort of mayor" of the Big Apple he would be, Bill de Blasio "pointed to Bill Clinton, in whose administration he served, pointing out that the former president had… governed effectively."

In 1996, most anti war and anti-corporate activists on the Lower East Side pretty much agreed with how Charles Lewis and the Center for Public Integrity characterized former Arkansas governor and then U.S. president Bill Clinton and his wife—former Wal Mart corporate board member and Rose corporate law firm partner and then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton—in the 1996 book The Buying of The President:

"There is probably no case more instructive of the intersection of private and public interest and the incestuousness of Arkansas business and political elites than that somewhat complicated affair known as Whitewater…The point of Whitewater and Bill Clinton's public service career in Arkansas is that long before the presidential election of 1992, his political identity as an accommodator of the largest most powerful monied interests was well established. While he was governor, millions of dollars in private favors at public expenses accrued to various companies and individuals, and Clinton's professional career as a politician was supported by the Arkansas financial and political elites…

"…From 1983 until he resigned as governor in order to seek his party's nomination for president, Clinton never really threatened the interests of the business elite, in some cases directly servicing them…Tyson Foods received roughly $12 million in tax breaks during the years Clinton was governor.

"In 1984 and in subsequent races, Tyson backed Clinton, not only at election time, but by allowing the governor to travel frequently on the Tyson corporate jet, picking up the tab on expensive meals, among other favors.

"For her part, Hillary Rodham Clinton was ensconced in the old, established Little Rock Rose law firm, which represented Tyson and other important corporate and financial interests in the state, including Stephens Inc., and Wal Mart, among others. It was Tyson's attorney, James Blair, who helped her make close to a 10,000 percent return on a $1,000 play in commodities trading…Clinton and his inner circle of advisers…exempted themselves from…conflict of interest disclosure requirements…Meanwhile, he and his administration were notably laggard and unaggressive in halting Tyson's polluting of rivers and streams…

"In 1991, a year after promising he would serve a full four year term as governor if reelected, Clinton announced his candidacy for president of the United States…

"Banking and financial interests were not bashful about supporting the Arkansas governor. In 1992, candidate Clinton received at least $853,295 in campaign contributions from the financial sector…And the company that produced more than $100,000 and the largest number of individual contributors was the New York based securities firm Goldman Sachs…The Clinton administration has pursued and served the American business community more aggressively and more systematically than any previous administration…"

Bill de Blasio, who, along with former Clinton White House Senior Advisor George Stephanopoulos, was chosen to be a Truman Scholar by the secretive Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation in the early 1980s, agreed to serve the Clintons as Bill Clinton's New York campaign director during Clinton's 1996 presidential re election campaign and during Clinton's 1996 re election campaign. "The Democratic Party accepted so many contributions of questionable origin that it ultimately was forced to return at least $2.8 million in illegal or improper donations," according to Charles Lewis and the Center for Public Integrity's book The Buying of The President 2000.

Apparently as a reward for his role as Bill Clinton's New York campaign director in 1996, de Blasio was then given a high salaried, publicly funded job as Regional Director for the Clinton Administration's Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD], which uses federal funds to provide lucrative corporate welfare subsidies to big private real estate developers and landlords who agree to build or rent privately owned, but federally subsidized, housing units to "moderate" income, elderly and, sometimes, "low" income tenants, on a generally for profit basis.

BILL DE BLASIO'S DINKINS ADMINISTRATION CONNECTION

Bill Clinton was not the first Democratic politician who primarily represented the special corporate interests of Wall Street banks and New York City real estate developers, rather than the economic and political class interests of Lower East Side tenants and activists—that de Blasio served.

Under the name "Bill Wilhelm", he had been an NYU undergraduate student politico in the early 1980s. By 1984, "he was calling himself Bill de Blasio;" and he then "joined the 1984 presidential campaign" of the Democratic presidential candidate who opposed Jesse Jackson's attempt to be the 1984 Democratic Party presidential nominee—former Trilateral Commission member Walter Mondale, serving "as a field organizer in Connecticut," according to an October 6, 2013 New York Daily News article.

After attending Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and graduating in May 1987, de Blasio spent a year at the religious left oriented Quixote Center (which provided humanitarian aid to people in Nicaragua who were then being victimized by the CIA organized Contra War to overthrow the anti imperialist Sandinista government in that country), before agreeing to serve as a campaign coordinator for former Inner City Broadcasting board member and 1989 New York City mayoral candidate David Dinkins. Following Dinkins' election, de Blasio served as a mayoral aide/staff person between 1990 and 1994..

During the period when de Blasio was a member of the Dinkins administration, Mayor Dinkins ordered his police force to violently shove homeless people and their supporters out of Tompkins Square Park, destroy its band shell and flood the Lower East Side with police. And, after the Dinkins administration obtained a court injunction that denied the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization [ILGO] its democratic right to march up Fifth Avenue on St. Patrick's Day to protest against homophobia in March 1993, Dinkins ordered his police force to block the ILGO marchers and arrest 170 of the 1,500 ILGO protesters.

According to the book Trump, by Wayne Barrett, during the 1989 New York City mayoral campaign, Donald Trump "had Tony Gliedman, an old "Mr. de Blasio becomes Mrs. Clinton's campaign manager during an uneasy period for her campaign…, Mrs. Clinton, who has never lived in New York, came to New York City to announce that she was indeed going to run for office...In Mr. de Blasio, Mrs. Clinton chose someone who…grew up in New York a point that was prominently mentioned in the single page news release announcing the appointment…"

The New York Times—December 4, 1999

In September 2013, when asked by The New Yorker magazine editor David Remnick to indicate "what sort of mayor" of the Big Apple he would be, Bill de Blasio "pointed to Bill Clinton, in whose administration he served, pointing out that the former president had… governed effectively."

In 1996, most anti war and anti corporate activists on the Lower East Side pretty much agreed with how Charles Lewis and the Center for Public Integrity characterized former Arkansas governor and then U.S. president Bill Clinton and his wife—former Wal Mart corporate board member and Rose corporate law firm partner and then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton—in the 1996 book The Buying of The President:

"There is probably no case more instructive of the intersection of private and public interest and the incestuousness of Arkansas business and political elites than that somewhat complicated affair known as Whitewater…The point of Whitewater and Bill Clinton's public service career in Arkansas is that long before the presidential election of 1992, his political identity as an accommodator of the largest most powerful monied interests was well established. While he was governor, millions of dollars in private favors at public expenses accrued to various companies and individuals, and Clinton's professional career as a politician was supported by the Arkansas financial and political elites…

"…From 1983 until he resigned as governor in order to seek his party's nomination for president, Clinton never really threatened the interests of the business elite, in some cases directly servicing them…Tyson Foods received roughly $12 million in tax breaks during the years Clinton was governor.

"In 1984 and in subsequent races, Tyson backed Clinton, not only at election time, but by allowing the governor to travel frequently on the Tyson corporate jet, picking up the tab on expensive meals, among other favors.

"For her part, Hillary Rodham Clinton was ensconced in the old, established Little Rock Rose law firm, which represented Tyson and other important corporate and financial interests in the state, including Stephens Inc., and Wal Mart, among others. It was Tyson's attorney, James Blair, who helped her make close to a 10,000 percent return on a $1,000 play in commodities trading…Clinton and his inner circle of advisers…exempted themselves from…conflict of interest disclosure requirements…Meanwhile, he and his administration were notably laggard and unaggressive in halting Tyson's

Continued on page 20

CHASE BANK HOUNDS BANK PROTESTERS:

PROSECUTORS PERSECUTE REVEREND BILLY

By Chris Flash

[December 12, 2013] On September 12, a JP Morgan Chase bank branch at 56th Street and Eighth Ave in Manhattan was invaded by a colorful band of amphibians, a singing church choir and an evangelist preaching about the evil deeds of Chase.

The group, composed of members of the Church of Stop Shopping, led by the Reverend Billy, went to Chase to protest that bank's role in financing projects and industries that contribute to climate change and to the destruction of Earth's atmosphere. Some members inhabited the character of Golden Toads, small amphibians forced into extinction by extreme climate change in Central America in the late 1980s.

During the 15 minute hit-and-run performance, the Stop Shopping Choir sang "We Surround You"—a song dedicated to threatened animals in the climate change era. Reverend Billy also preached a short sermon scolding Chase Bank for its investments that include tar sands extraction, mountaintop removal, fracking and oil drilling.

When they finished, the choir and Rev Billy left the bank and entered the subway, where Rev. Billy and church musical director Nehemiah Luckett were arrested, charged with "Riot in the Second Degree," "Menacing in the Third Degree,""Unlawful Assembly," and two counts of "Disorderly Conduct."

At a preliminary hearing on October 28, Rev. Billy (William Talen) and Nehemiah, represented by civil rights attorney Wylie Stecklow [of Stecklow, Cohen and Thompson], were startled to hear the Assistant District Attorney ask Judge Felicia Mennin for a full year in prison for Rev. Billy. The ADA refused the insistence by the plaintiffs that bank workers on the scene were advised that "This was expressive politics and will be concluded shortly." The ADA called the performance "a criminal stunt" and told the judge that Rev. Billy was also arrested in California, Washington DC and New Hampshire.

Stecklow defended the Chase bank action as "Expressive speech activity protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution" and pointed out that with Rev. Billy's very last bank arrest on November 25, 2013, the NYPD also overcharged the conduct as misdemeanors due to NYPD policy (and NY Criminal Procedure Law 140.10), that does not allow for non criminal arrests that occur outside the presence of the NYPD.

Rev. Billy told The SHADOW that his November arrest occurred on "Buy Nothing Day", during which Rev. Billy led a procession of carolers down Broadway from Columbus Circle, hitting banks on each corner along the way. Stopping at a UBS bank branch, Rev. Billy and the Stop Shopping singers asked the bank to reconsider funding mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia. After a subsequent bench trial, Judge James Burke found Billy not guilty of "Trespassing" and "Resisting Arrest."

The prosecution on October 28 presented a five count complaint, accusing Rev. Billy and Mr. Luckett of being violent criminals rather than recognizing them as global climate change activists involved in protected speech activity. Judge Mennin denied the ADA's request for bail and released both defendants on their own recognizance to re-appear in court on December 9.

On December 9, the charges against Billy and Nehemiah were reduced to "Criminal Trespass in the Third Degree," "Unlawful Assembly", "Trespass". The two counts of "Disorderly Conduct" remain. Apparently, the District Attorney's office saw bank surveillance video of the protest and realized that it was harmless. As told to The SHADOW, attorneys Stecklow and Sam Cohen challenged the reduced charges and handed the judge a petition with more than 13,500 signatures, demanding that all charges be dismissed. Defense attorneys also demanded access to the bank's video.

In the original criminal complaint filed against Billy and Nehemiah, Chase branch manager Robert Bongiorno claimed that due to the singing of the choir and prancing about by church members wearing Golden Toad hats, he "believed that the bank was being robbed," that he felt in fear for his physical safety. He also claimed that he observed at least one person inside of the bank "break into tears."

In an amended complaint, Bongiorno no longer claims that he was in fear of bank robbery or for his personal safety. He now simply claims that he "observed many of the above individuals handing out yellow pieces of paper [leaflets pertaining to mountaintop removal — Ed.] to the customers and employees in the bank" and that "the defendants' actions disrupted the bank's ability to conduct business."

The prosecution is now offering Billy one day of community service to be performed if he pleads guilty to "Disorderly Conduct" and an "ACD" [Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal] for Nehemiah—if he accepts and stays out of trouble for six months, the case against him would be dismissed.

The next court date is February 27, 2014. Despite the reduction of the charges, Rev. Billy tells The SHADOW that under no circumstances will he take any plea deals offered by the DA's office.

[Fund raising performances by Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping Choir are happening Sundays at Joe's Pub at the Public Theater at 425 LaFayette Street on December 15 + 22 at 2:30pm with the toads singing on stage. See www.revbilly.com for details and the latest news about the doings of Rev. Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping.]

RE: THE 15 MINUTES OF EXTINCT, BUT RETURNED FROM THE DEAD, ZOMBIE FROGS IN THE LOBBY OF THE EARTH-KILLING CHASE BANK

THIS GETS US A YEAR IN JAIL?

By Reverend Billy

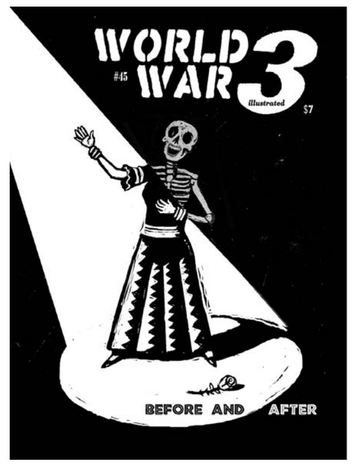
It is fashionable to say that today Social Justice and Earth Justice must be one and the same thing. However that is easier to shout than to persuasively explain. I've heard it said from my own mouth that when the day comes that we all inhale our last breath, then all issues become one: Life! That's the moment that no doubt about it all the 700 issues in our email archives become one incandescent issue: Life. Life a lujah.

Now JPMorgan Chase makes profits that bring death to living things in the biosphere, humans among them. This was our point with our dancing on the desks of the very rich which the District Attorney's office called a "criminal stunt." We arrived at the bank in the guise of the toad that the locals in the cloud forests call "the Allelujah Toad," killed by climate change 35 years ago.

At the moment that we interrupted the conversations of the bankers and their rich clients, we protested (and slowed down, at least) the deadly results of fossil fuel investments. Chase's nightmarish specialty and the murder program in which it leads all the world's banks. This corporation penalized a record $13 billion for bundling fraudulent mortgages, for helping Bernie Madoff, for scamming students with debts (holding kids and their parents hostage by using the American dream of advancement through education as a weapon..) all these social crimes committed while simultaneously Chase puts billions into tar sands, mountaintop removal, fracking & drilling... and so endangers the physical life of the earth.

Isn't that the ultimate social injustice, when we die because we've killed everything else? Oh Life a lujah! Let us be life serving life! Let us do what evolution directs us to do, which is not to be predators, but to be lovers...

WHO KNOWS WHERE EVIL LURKS? THE SHADOW KNOWS!!



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THE FORECLOSURE FIASCO AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

By Les Jamieson

Since the founding of this country, land ownership has been officially recorded in a systematic process of documenting the identity of the purchaser, as well as the succession of future purchasers. These records include the identity of the creditor, namely, the bank. Any transference or "assignment" to a new source of funding or servicer in charge of collection is also notated. This is known as "chain of title". This process has been adhered to so as to preserve the integrity of the title on a property so that ownership would always be clear and no improper party could falsely claim they were the owner or creditor. This is how every mortgage has been established for over two centuries.

Now fast forward to 1999. Major banks, such as Bank of America, Chase Home Mortgage, CitiMortgage, in collusion with Fannie Mae (the Federal National Mortgage Association) and Freddie Mac (the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation), the Mortgage Bankers Association and the American Land Title Association, came up with a scheme by which they could displace the traditional method of recording property ownership, called Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, or MERS for short.

As reported by Christopher Ketcham in Harper's Magazine (January 2012), MERS "was created in 1995 as a privately held venture of the major mortgage finance operators, chief among them the government sponsored mortgaging entities Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

"The stated purpose of MERS was to manage a confidential electronic registry for the tracking of the sale of mortgage loans between lenders, which could now place loans under MERS's name to avoid filing the paperwork normally required whenever mortgage assignments changed hands. No longer would the traffickers in mortgages have to document their transactions with county clerks, nor would they have to pay the many and varied courthouse fees for such transactions. Instead, MERS was listed in local recording offices as the 'mortgagee of record,' the in name only owner, a so called nominee for the lender, so that MERS would effectively 'own' the loan where the public record was concerned, while the lenders traded it back and forth.

"This centralized database facilitated the buying and selling of mortgage debt at great speed and greatly reduced cost. It was a key innovation in expediting the packaging of mortgage backed securities. Soon after the registry launched, in 1999, the Wall Street ratings agencies pronounced the system sound. 'The legal mechanism set up to put creditors on notice of a mortgage is valid,' as was 'the ability to foreclose,' assured Moody's. That same year, Lehman Brothers issued the first AAA rated mortgage backed security built out of MERS mortgages.

"By the end of 2002, MERS was registering itself as the owner of 21,000 loans every day. Five years later, at the peak of the housing bubble, MERS registered some two thirds of all home loans in the United States. Without the efficiencies of MERS, there probably would never have been a mortgage finance bubble."

With banking deregulation that began under Ronald Reagan and accelerated under Bill Clinton, the passages of the Gramm–Leach–Bliley Act of 1999 and the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000, and the 1999 repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, the floodgates opened for commercial banks to take on the risks of investment banks and delve into derivatives markets. It was the perfect storm. Although top commercial banks participated, wholesale lenders such as Countrywide, Washington Mutual, and many others that have since gone under gorged themselves from 2002—2008.

What ensued was a feeding frenzy whereby mortgage lenders sold sub-prime loans to anyone with a pulse, offering low teaser interest rates destined to blow up within a few years by adjusting into higher unaffordable rates. Since these sub-prime loans were more profitable than conventional loans, mortgage brokers were actually incentivized to push these loans, while promising to get their customers a refinanced mortgage with a lower fixed rate within a year. Borrowers were told there was nothing to worry about. Remember, this was just after the collapse of the "dot com bubble". The already declining economy caused millions of people to tap into their home equity through refinancing to pay for everything from credit card consolidation to new cars and home renovation. Millions of others were seduced by the American Dream ideal of home ownership.

Then disaster struck in 2008. Lenders pulled back. The bubble burst in the faces of millions of homeowners who were then unable to obtain their promised fixed rate. Loan default was inevitable. MERS was at the epicenter of this killer storm.

As Ketcham explains: "Wall Street had packaged home loans in derivatives known as mortgage backed securities so that the banks could raise more capital for more loans—to anyone and everyone—to be pooled into more securities to make more profits. The housing machine, of course, collapsed under the weight of its many frauds. The result was a recession, bailouts for the banks, and foreclosures.

"After the housing market collapsed, however, MERS found itself under attack in courts across the country. MERS had singlehandedly unraveled centuries of precedent in property titling and mortgage recordation, and judges in state appellate and federal bankruptcy courts in more than a dozen jurisdictions—the primary venues where real estate cases are decided—determined that the company did not have the right to foreclose on the mortgages it held.

"The 'true horror' of MERS was what it could do to homeowners who were current on their mortgage payments—the 'good' homeowners who still had a job and who weren't facing foreclosure. If there was no legal record of which bank owned their debt, and the MERS mortgaged homeowner nonetheless had been making payments, then who exactly was the homeowner paying? The checks, clearly, were going out each month, cashed by a bank that claimed to own the note.

"But without the legal record to certify the ownership of the note, it followed that the bank could not legally issue the homeowner a clear title to the home. In effect, a homeowner with MERS on his mortgage could spend thirty years paying a lender that wasn't the owner of the note. After those thirty years, when the note was paid off, the homeowner would come to an awful discovery: without a clear title issued to stipulate that the home had no claim of debt against it, the homeowner could assert ownership of exactly nothing."

Although the federal government has initiated a few programs to help homeowners, banks have continued their reprehensible behavior, this time in the loan modification process. Millions of homeowners have sought relief by applying for loan modifications in order to lower monthly payments. Banks have responded by losing paperwork, asking for the same applications multiple times, stringing along the homeowner for a year or more while late fees continue to accrue as a result of the bank's own negligence, only to finally deny the homeowner who was a victim of economic forces far beyond his control.

Banks have been preying upon the public as a source of collateral to leverage into investments to be sold by Wall Street, then hedged against through credit default swaps. Then, after foreclosing on homes, banks resell properties for further gain while millions of Americans are left with nothing but pain and suffering, ruined credit, and a failed economy stuck in decline.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT

Are you angry yet? Are you at risk of losing your home to foreclosure? If so, would you like to fight back? Well, you can. If you purchased or refinanced your home after 2002, it's highly probable that there were violations committed by your lender, in which case you stand a good chance of fighting the bank and winning. In New York State, it's a matter of challenging the so-called lender's claim of harm, known as "standing". You'll need to understand the importance of there being a valid assignment and you'll need to understand how to detect robo-signing.

In order for a bank to foreclose on a homeowner, the law requires the bank to show it owns the loan secured by the mortgage against a house. To do that, the lender needs to produce the chain of title as documentary proof that it has legally acquired the loan. You can force the lender or creditor to prove ownership of your loan and that your note and mortgage are intact without breaks in the chain of title.

For starters, you'll need to look at the first and second page of your loan document (mortgage or deed of trust) to see if MERS is listed as a "beneficiary" or "nominee". While you're at it, you may as well read the rest of the mortgage and note. You'll be shocked at how little you understand and how very little if anything was explained to you at closing. It's worth noting that MERS claims to be both a beneficiary and nominee, which courts have found to be a contradiction in terms, as well as finding that in no way can MERS be a beneficiary. In other words, MERS, as well as the lender, has committed the crime of misrepresentation.

If MERS is listed as a beneficiary or nominee in your loan document, you can challenge the validity of the foreclosure action against you. Fortunately, there are cases with established precedents that you can cite: In New York, there is Bank of New York vs. Silverberg, and In Re Agard which took place in bankruptcy court in the Eastern District. You'll also want to study the U.S. Bank NA vs. Ibanez case in Massachusetts.

Defending yourself against the foreclosing party, you'll want to establish the actions that took place that broke or "clouded" your chain of your title. A break in the chain of title jeopardizes your ability to sell or refinance your property because a clean sale is dependent upon having a clear title. Technically, the title is actually un-insurable. If and when the day comes when you actually pay the mortgage in full, the title you are supposed to receive is basically fraudulent.

Furthermore, because the identity of the creditor has been obscured through the actions of the lender and/or MERS due to failure to properly execute assignments transferring ownership on the original title and note, you don't really know who you've been paying every month. In the future you could actually wind up being approached by an unknown party demanding payment.

If you are facing foreclosure or if you're not facing foreclosure, but simply want proof as to who owns the loan on your property and whether or not they have legal standing to demand and collect your monthly payments or to foreclose on you, you can pursue a "quiet title action". Almost every state has enacted legislation that permits a property owner to use such actions to ask the courts to hold hearings on the ownership of his/her property.

As reported by Ketcham: "In the frenzied mortgage markets of the past decade, the chains of titles on the loans of tens of millions of homeowners have been 'clouded.' If homeowners sued to quiet the title—demanding proof of who really owned their loan—there is a chance they could get their house back. They could even separate their house from the debt against it. The debt then would be unsecured, non collateralized, and the bank could not take the house even if the homeowners never repaid the money." Many property and homeowners have been brought quiet title actions naming MERS and many have been successful. However it should be noted that we haven't had a uniform system of justice that has been applied across every state. There is some variation. You'll need to do your research to study what has been effective and what hasn't. If you're strong willed, up for the fight, and willing to put in the effort, it is possible to outsmart the bank's lawyers.

You can find legal education and maybe even a lawyer experienced in foreclosure defense at www.commonlawnyc.org. You'll also want to team up with any civic group you can find who is engaged in fighting the banks on behalf of homeowners.

You can also be part of a movement that is saying it's the American people who are too big to fail, while no banker or politician should be too big to jail. We must also let elected officials know we want retribution for the utter destruction banks have caused to the American landscape, and we want a financial system that disallows predator Wall Street vultures from enriching themselves on the labor and hard-earned savings of the people.

[Les Jamieson is an activist on various fronts, including paralegal research on mortgage foreclosure]

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YOUR MORTGAGE DOCUMENTS ARE FAKE!

UNSEALED COURT-SETTLEMENT DOCUMENTS REVEAL HOW BANKS HAVE STOLEN HOUSES THROUGH ILLEGAL FORECLOSURES

By David Dayen (Salon.com)

[August 12, 2013] A recently unsealed lawsuit, which banks settled in 2012 by paying $95 million in fines, reveals that banks falsified documents in order to foreclose on homes because they could not legally establish true ownership of the loans on which they were foreclosing.

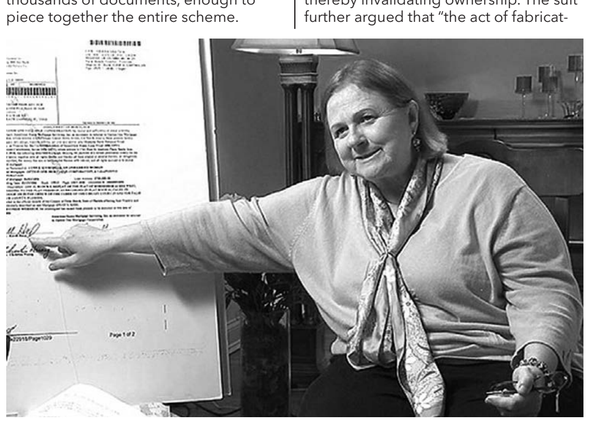
The 2011 lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in North and South Carolina, by white-collar fraud specialist named Lynn Szymoniak, on behalf of the federal government, seventeen states and three cities. Twenty-eight banks, mortgage servicers and document processing companies were named in the lawsuit, including JP Morgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citibank and Bank of America. The federal government, states and cities joined the lawsuit under 25 counts of the federal False Claims Act and state-based versions of the law. All of them bought mortgage-backed securities from banks that never conveyed the mortgages or notes to the trusts.

Szymoniak, who faced home foreclosure in 2009, researched her mortgage documents and found evidence of fraud. For example, one document claimed that Deutsche Bank, listed as the owner of her mortgage, acquired ownership in October 2008, four months after they first filed for foreclosure. She eventually examined tens of thousands of documents, enough to piece together the entire scheme.

In her suit, Szymoniak stated that, "Defendants used fraudulent mortgage assignments to conceal that over 1,400 MBS [mortgage-backed securities] trusts, each with mortgages valued at over $1 billion, are missing critical documents." This means that at least $1.4 trillion in mortgage-backed securities are, in fact, non-mortgage-backed securities. Because of the strict laws governing of these kinds of securitizations, there is no way to make the assignments after the fact.

One smoking gun in the suit pertains to a mortgage assignment dated February 9, 2009, after the foreclosure of the mortgage in question was completed. According to the suit, "A typewritten note on the right hand side of the document states: 'This Assignment of Mortgage was inadvertently not recorded prior to the Final Judgment of Foreclosure… but is now being recorded to clear title.'"

This admission confirms that the mortgage assignment was not made before the closing date of the trust, thereby invalidating ownership. The suit further argued that "the act of fabricating the assignments is evidence that the MBS Trust did not own the notes and/or the mortgage liens for some assets claimed to be in the pool."



Lynn Szymoniak

The suit alleged that notes, as well as the mortgage assignments, were "never delivered to the mortgage-backed securities trusts," and that the trustees lied to the SEC [Securities and Exchange Commission] and investors about it. As a result, the trusts could not establish ownership of the loan when they went to foreclose, leading to creation of false documents signed by "robo-signers," employees using various corporate titles for companies that never employed them, to sign documents about which they had little or no knowledge.

Many documents were forged. In one example, the suit provides evidence of the signature of one robo-signer, Linda Green, written eight different ways. Some were signed by "officers" of companies that went bankrupt years earlier, and dozens of assignments listed as the owner of the loans "Bogus Assignee for Intervening Assignments," clearly a template that was never changed. One defendant in the case, Lender Processing Services, created false documents on behalf of banks, often using fake corporate officer titles and forged signatures. This was all done to establish standing to foreclose in courts, which the banks otherwise could not.

Finally, the lawsuit argued that the federal government was harmed by "payments made on mortgage guarantees to Defendants lacking valid notes and assignments of mortgages who were not entitled to demand or receive said payments."

Despite Szymoniak seeking a trial by jury, the government intervened, settling part of the suit in early 2012, extracting $95 million in fines from the five biggest banks in the suit (Wells Fargo, Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Citibank and GMAC/Ally Bank.) Szymoniak herself was awarded $18 million. However, the underlying evidence was never revealed until the case was unsealed on August 8.

Now that the case is no longer sealed, Szymoniak, as the named plaintiff, can go forward and prove the case. Along with her legal team (which includes the law firm of Grant & Eisenhoffer, which has recovered more money under the False Claims Act than any firm in the country), Szymoniak can pursue discovery motions and sue the remaining named defendants, including HSBC, the Bank of New York Mellon, Deutsche Bank and US Bank.

The expenses of the case, previously covered by the government, now are borne by Szymoniak and her team, but the percentages of recovery funds are also higher. "I'm really glad I was part of collecting this money for the government, and I'm looking forward to going through discovery and collecting the rest of it," Szymoniak says.

The $95 million settlement was nothing compared to the enormity of the crimes committed. By the end of 2009, private MBS trusts held one-third of all residential mortgages in the U.S. That means that tens of millions of home mortgages worth trillions of dollars have no legitimate underlying owner that can establish the right to foreclose.

This hasn't stopped banks from foreclosing anyway with false documents, and they are often successful, a testament to the breakdown of law in the judicial system, which fails to prosecute this conduct and instead allows banks to pay a fine to continue their business as usual.

The resulting chaos in disentangling ownership harms homeowners trying to sell these properties, as well as those trying to purchase them. And it renders some properties impossible to sell. This disappoints Szymoniak, who says that the owner of these loans is now essentially "whoever lies the most convincingly and whoever gets the benefit of doubt from the judge."

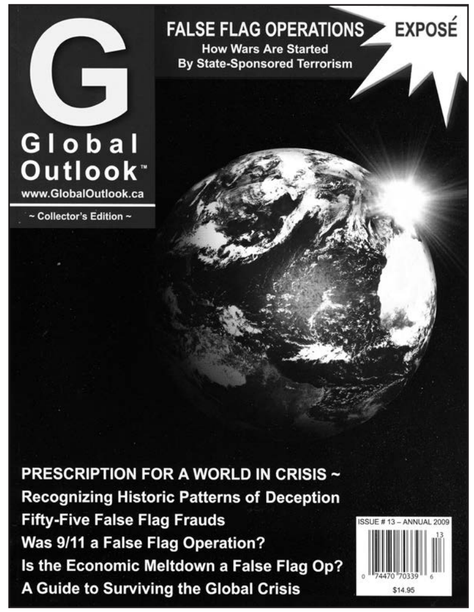
[Szymoniak has used her share of the settlement to start the Housing Justice Foundation, a non-profit that attempts to raise awareness of the continuing corruption of the nation's courts and land title system.]

MORTGAGE SECURITIZATION EXPLAINED

A mortgage has two parts: the promissory note (the IOU from the borrower to the lender) and the mortgage, which creates the lien on the home in case of default. During the housing bubble, banks bought loans from originators, and then (in a process known as securitization) enacted a series of transactions that would eventually pool thousands of mortgages into bonds, sold all over the world to public pension funds, state and municipal governments and other investors. A trustee would pool the loans and sell the securities to investors, and the investors would get an annual percentage yield on their money.

In order for the securitization to work, banks purchasing the mortgages had to physically convey the promissory note and the mortgage into the trust. The note had to be endorsed (the way an individual would endorse a check), and handed over to a document custodian for the trust, with a "mortgage assignment" confirming the transfer of ownership. And this had to be done before a 90-day cutoff date, with no grace period beyond that.

Georgetown Law professor Adam Levitin spelled this out in testimony before Congress in 2010: "If mortgages were not properly transferred in the securitization process, then mortgage-backed securities would in fact not be backed by any mortgages whatsoever."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THE "TERRORIST" LABEL AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF REVOLUTIONARY BLACK MOVEMENTS IN THE USA

By Dhoruba Bin-Wahad

At a press conference on May 2, 2013, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) announced that it had designated former Black Panther Party (BPP) member Assata Shakur as one of its top ten wanted "terrorists." (Assata was convicted of shooting a state trooper in 1973–she escaped from jail in 1979 and fled to Cuba.) This designation, and the media hoopla surrounding it, has significant historical and political implications.

While numerous progressive individuals and organizations correctly denounced that designation, recognizing that it was, in part, an attack on Cuba, far too many progressive and Civil Rights advocates have missed the greater and more pernicious historical revisionism and racist political implications behind Assata Shakur's rebranding as a "terrorist."

People fighting for human rights, who oppose President Barack Obama's policies of "rendition," torture, (which is euphemistically termed "Enhanced Interrogation Technique"), indefinite detention, and state-sponsored murder by RCVs (drones), have called upon Obama to remove Shakur's "terrorist" designation, arguing that Assata is innocent of the murder charge that resulted from her 1973 arrest.

President Obama, during his August 28 speech commemorating the 50th anniversary of March On Washington, recounted his version of the sixties, claiming that Black people lost their way when "legitimate grievances against police brutality tipped into excuse-making for criminal behavior." What was Obama talking about? Who was he referring to? What Blacks used police brutality to somehow mask criminal activity? He never said, but clearly Obama was referring to the Black Panther Party. His comments, when juxtaposed with the actions of his Justice Department, speak volumes.

In an effort to appease domestic law enforcement, Obama sanctioned his Justice Department's targeting of a former Black Panther in exile, Assata Shakur, designating her and her movement as terrorists, rather than open up a discussion on the excesses of the sixties and seventies to discern who were the real criminals and assassins—the architects of COINTELPRO or the movements they illegally infiltrated and destroyed? Supporters and detractors of Assata distort, exclude, and ignore the movement from which she emerged. This essay is an attempt to place the "terrorist" designation and Assata's case in a historical and political context that also significantly impacts the status of Black Political prisoners in the United States.

THE BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT: CIRCA 1960—1975

To begin, it is necessary to step into a time capsule and head back to the 1960s. The following history is not intended to be definitive or complete, but this is a history that is relatively unknown, or if known, deliberately twisted by some who may have benefited from the distortion of Black sixties activism.

Inspired by the example of the martyred El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X), Robert Williams and the original Black Panthers of Lowndes County Alabama, the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense was founded in October 1966 in Oakland, California by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. In just a few months after its inception, the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense emerged as a significant influence on "New Left" and radical politics in America and as one of the most popular organizations and (romanticized) groups in the Black community.

The BPP developed a ten-point political program based on the conditions of African-American and poor people in the Bay Area of San Francisco, California and across the nation. However, the BPP's emphasis on community control of institutions within the Black community, including education, health care and housing, resonated with urban Blacks everywhere because institutional racism lay at the very basis of racial and political inequality nationally, not only in the Bay Area. One point of the BPP program called for the end to the military draft of all Black men. Another point called for a plebiscite in the Black community to determine whether Black people wished to remain part of the United States.

The most controversial, vilified and misrepresented point of the BPP's 10-point program was its recognition of Black People's inherent right to self-defense, including armed self-defense against racist attack, by civilians or the police. In Oakland, California, armed BPP members engaged in the original "cop-watch," establishing regular armed patrols that followed the police, intervening, at a legal distance, when the police violated someone's rights.

Assata as Joanne Chesimard in 1973

Fully appreciating how short-lived their right to bear arms in public would last, and instinctively sensing how the power structure of white supremacy would attempt to disconnect the rights of Black self-defense from non-violent movements for broader civil rights and assimilation-the bread and butter of "responsible Negro leaders"—the BPP embarked on a publicity campaign to emphasize the racist political character and purpose of law enforcement and the legislative process.

The BPP's instincts were verified when in 1967, in direct response to the BPP, the State of California sought to amend its gun laws to eliminate the right to carry a firearm in open view. (Ironically, the bill was supported by gun rights advocates, the NRA and then Governor Ronald Reagan. After all, it was about taking firearms from Black people!) Indeed, the Bill was called the "Black Panther" Bill.

On May 2, 1967, the BPP responded by sending an armed delegation to Legislative Office Building in Sacramento to debate the new gun law. The image of armed young Black women and men marching in formation on the State Capitol circulated like wild-fire around the world. Black community activists across America, were galvanized by the BPP's response to the perceived denial of Black Peoples right to openly carry arms.

When BPP Chapters sprang up throughout the country, the FBI, State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies realized that unless the ideas of Black self-defense were completely discredited, demonized, and rejected by the African-American populace, it could lead to a sustained uprising of America's most marginalized and maligned national minority–Africans in America.

Barely ten months old in August 1967, the BPP became the FBI's main target in its expanding counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) against the Black Liberation movement. The stated purpose of the program, according to an August 25, 1967 document, was to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit or otherwise neutralize" Black organizations and their leadership.

In March 1968, the program was further expanded to 43 FBI field offices, which were ordered to develop counter-intelligence operations designed to prevent a "coalition" of black groups, as well as the rise of a "messiah" that would unify the movement. The FBI was also very concerned about the spread of revolutionary ideology among youth. As candidly put in April 1968 by the FBI's San Francisco field office, COINTELPRO had to convince youth to buy into the system:

"The Negro youth and moderate must be made to understand that if they succumb to revolutionary teaching, they will be dead revolutionaries. Is it not better to be a sports hero, a well-paid professional athlete or entertainer or a regularly paid white or blue collar worker, a peaceful human being with a family, or a person who is at least being accepted than a Negro who may have gotten even with the Establishment by burning it down, but who along with this, burned down his own home and gained for him and all his people the hatred and distrust of the whites for years to come?"

What started out as a general repressive and surveillance program in 1967 had become by mid-1968 a campaign to destroy the Black Panther Party and its ideology of armed resistance to racist violence. The BPP was the chief target of COINTELPRO. According to a 1976 Senate Report from the Church Committee, the BPP was targeted in 90% of all COINTELPRO efforts directed at the Black Liberation movement. Some of these included forcing churches and schools to evict the breakfast program, sending spurious notes to contributors threatening violence, placing false stories in newspapers, manipulating fund raising, using informants to spread false rumors, and other disinformation machinations. BPP members were arrested on the street for selling the BPP newspaper. Police conducted interrogations with no legal basis. In all of this, local police played an integral role. As noted in an FBI Airtel of December 2, 1968: "Every effort is being made to misdirect the activities of the BPP on a daily basis." Apartments and offices were regularly subjected to search. There were spurious arrests. BPP offices and homes were subjected to warrantless (and illegal) wiretaps. The organization was flooded with informants and police agents who worked as provocateurs.

False criminal charges were also lodged against BPP local and regional leaders. In April 1969, 21 leading cadre members of the New York City chapter of the BPP (this author included) were arrested and indicted on conspiracy charges. The so-called "Panther 21" case was based solely on the allegations of three undercover NYPD officers who posed as Panther members. One of these, undercover Black "BOSSI" operative Detective Gene Roberts, had years earlier infiltrated Malcolm X's organization (the OAAU) and was on Malcolm's security detail at the Audubon Ballroom when Malcolm was gunned downed and killed on February 21, 1965. The entire Harlem chapter leadership and its Regional Field Secretary, Dhoruba Bin-Wahad, were incarcerated. It was at this juncture in the covert and overt repression of the BPP that Assata Shakur, then a student at City College of New York, became active in BPP programs as a medical cadre in Washington Heights.

There was also police murder and violence. For example, on December 4, 1969, Chicago police, aided by information provided by an FBI informant, fired hundreds of rounds into the home of BPP Chairman Fred Hampton and BPP member Mark Clark. Fred Hampton was killed as he lay in his bed, drugged from the Seconal secretly given to him.

History supported the Panther's perception that when the lower classes, exploited and disenfranchised rise up against their rulers, inevitably the police/military apparatus of the State violently repress any popular uprising, movement, civil disobedience that threatens the existing order.

THE BLACK LIBERATION ARMY—STRIKING BACK

Exacerbating regional, personal and political differences, the FBI embarked upon a plan, an eventually successful one, to split the Black Panther Party into two factions, one on the west coast, commonly called the "Newton" faction, named after Huey Newton, and one on the east coast, commonly called the "Cleaver" faction, named after Eldridge Cleaver. While many debate whether the split would have occurred even without FBI instigation, it is beyond dispute that the FBI and local law enforcement played a central role in making the split a violent one.

The Black Liberation Army (BLA) was the conscious response of those targeted by COINTELPRO for police style assassination, or imprisonment. Some BPP members fled underground to avoid the COINTELPRO-inspired violence while others chose to go underground to further revolutionary activity.

In the spring of 1971, there was a series of shootings of police in New York City. Other armed attacks occurred in California and elsewhere. In communiques received by the media, the "Black Liberation Army" claimed responsibility for those attacks. In response, President Richard Nixon ordered a "full-out" law enforcement effort to capture former BPP members who might have been involved in the attacks. The initial investigation, called "Newkill," was a joint FBI-NYPD effort that became a model for later incarnations, such as the "Joint Terrorism Taskforce."

FBI agents who were involved in COINTELPRO became part of Newkill. BPP members who were then underground–and many who were not–were considered logical suspects and targeted for arrest. The Director ordered the New York FBI Office to:

"Review appropriate files of black extremist organizations, including those of so-called Third World groups, to develop logical suspects. Include those organizations and their leaders in target assignments given to sources. Consider the possibility that both attacks may be result of revenge taken against New York City Police by the Black Panther Party as a result of its arrest of BPP members in April, 1969…."

Assata Shakur aligned herself with East Coast "Cleaver" faction and though never a formally a COINTELPRO target, she became a primary target of the FBI's post-COINTELPRO anti urban-terrorism investigations, collectively labeled as "Chesrob," using her birth name (Joanne Chesimard.) Chesrob became a national anti-urban guerrilla investigation aimed directly at destroying BLA soldiers and their clandestine infrastructure.

Continued on page 9

By early 1972, the media labeled Assata the "soul" of the Black Liberation Army. She was considered a suspect in virtually every New York City bank robbery where a woman was thought to have participated. Although "Chesrob" was designated as an FBI bank robbery investigation, it was really another coordinated NYPD-FBI effort to capture or kill underground BPP members and BLA members.

It is in this context that Assata Shakur's May 2, 1973 arrest on the New Jersey Turnpike must be viewed. Along with Zayd Malik Shakur (former BPP Deputy Minister of Information) and Sundiata Acoli (an acquitted Panther 21 defendant, former NASA employee and computer genius), Assata was stopped on the New Jersey Turnpike for "driving while Black."

It is likely that the troopers learned the identities of those in the car shortly after it was stopped. In any event, a shootout erupted. Zayd Malik Shakur and one trooper were killed. Assata was shot while her hands were in the air attempting to surrender. She was arrested. Sundiata Acoli, though injured, managed to escape, but was caught a few days later.

Assata was then tried for numerous acts in which she was a suspect. All resulted in acquittals or dismissals. It was the New Jersey Turnpike incident that gave rise to her only conviction and life sentence. (Acoli was convicted in a separate trial and sentenced to life.) However, on November 2, 1979, Assata was liberated from her New Jersey prison and eventually surfaced in Cuba, where she was granted political asylum. [Assata lives in Cuba to this day–Ed.]

Assata and her legal advisers can and should use any available means and arguments to keep her safe and free. But everyone else, including supporters and those interested in justice and an end to racist and political repression should, as a matter of principle, place her case, and the "terrorist" designation placed on her by the FBI, in its proper context: as the continuation of criminalization and demonization of the Black Liberation Movement.

Assata's guilt or innocence of the actual charges is totally and absolutely irrelevant. Assata was part of a movement that sustained and suffered massive police and state repression under COINTELPRO, Newkill and Chesrob. This movement for Black self-determination, the right to control institutions within the Black community and the right to self-defense, has been declared "terrorist" by the U.S. government's law enforcement agencies charged with executing its racist and political destruction.

Although there are differences, the political characterization of Assata as a "terrorist" and the cases of the Black political prisoners (her comrades) still in jail must be the same: they were/are part of a legitimate political movement for human rights and self-determination.

BPP political prisoners from the era remaining in jail include: Marshall Eddie Conway: 43 years; Anthony Jalil Bottom: 42 years; Sundiata Acoli: 40 years; Robert Seth Hayes: 41 years; Herman Bell: 40 years, Russell Maroon Shoatz: 40 years; Sekou Odinga: 32 years and Abdul Majid: 31 years. Albert Nuh Washington, Teddy Jah Heath, and Basheer Hameed died in prison after serving decades.

BPP/BLA members had trials characterized by gross violations of due process that took place at a time when

COINTELPRO disclosures had not yet been made. But only two, Dhoruba Bin-Wahad (the author) and Geronimo Pratt were able to secure reversals of their convictions and secure their freedom from imprisonment.

The issue after more than 40 years is not guilt or innocence or whether the trials were fair. These prisoners were and are part of a movement and, after all of this time, should be freed, irrespective of their legal guilt or innocence. To achieve this, the "terrorist" label must be challenged, not on an individual basis, but politically and in correct historical context.

Dhoruba Bin-Wahad
Former Field Secretary BPP, NY
Political Prisoner (19 Years)
Director IDPAP, GH

[The author wishes to acknowledge Robert J. Boyle, Esq. who contributed research and documents for this article]

[Editor's Note: Dhoruba Bin-Wahad is a revolutionary and a writer. He was a founding member of the Black Panther Party and co-founder of the Black Liberation Army. Until he was freed in 1990, Dhoruba spent 19 years in US prisons as a consequence of being targeted by the FBI's COINTELPRO operation. He has since established the Campaign to Free Black Political Prisoners and Prisoners-of-War and is active in Black and African Liberation struggles. See SHADOW #36 for an interview with Dhoruba. You can read an in-depth interview with Assata Shakur at: *http://www.thetalkingdrum.com/bla4.html]*

UNDERCOVER POLICE AGITATOR EXPOSED

By Timmy Sullivan

In what has become an international story, a deep undercover New York Police Department [NYPD] Intelligence Division officer has been exposed as a participant in a beat down of a man driving with his family. On September 29, 2013, a group of motorcyclists riding on the West Side Highway in Manhattan chased and surrounded an SUV, broke the windows and assaulted the driver after the man ran over one of the motorcyclists.

Caught on a helmet-mounted video camera worn by one of the bikers was NYPD Detective Wojciech Braszczok, who was seen using his helmet to smash the driver's side window before the man was dragged from the SUV and beaten in front of his horrified wife and children.

Many in activist communities knew Braszczok under his false identify of "Albert." He had worked for the NYPD for ten years. Whether he was on the job or not, at the time of the incident, is unclear. But one thing is certain: Braszczok had two different identities: one as a family man, and the other as a spy and undercover provocateur that infiltrated local community groups and created havoc.

At one point, while infiltrating Occupy Wall Street, Braszczok was "arrested" during an action with protesters in Grand Central Station. Unconfirmed reports allege that he was the Occupy activist who posted online, using the Twitter handle "Evovillen," and that he was known at meetings as "Al." He was also quite frequently seen at birthday parties at the homes of activists and at an action this past April in support of hacker Jeremy Hammond, who was recently sentenced to ten years in prison for hacking into the corporate intelligence firm Stratfor, which was spying on such activist organizations as PETA [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals].

Braszczok has been charged with a 14 count indictment over the alleged attack of driver Alexian Lien, and faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted on the top charges.

In a recent book about NYPD spying on Muslims titled "Enemies Within: Inside the NYPD's Secret Spying Unit and Bin Laden's Final Plot Against America," authors Matt Apuzzo and Adam Goldman reveal that the 25 year old neighborhood environmental organization Time's Up has also been spied upon and infiltrated by the NYPD.

National Lawyers Guild head Heidi Boghosian devotes an entire chapter of her newly-published book "Spying on Democracy" to the infiltration of Time's Up and Critical Mass, a monthly bike rally that takes place in over 200 cities around the world. She writes: "For over a decade, the New York City Police Department spent lavish amounts of time, personnel, and resources usually reserved for terrorist threats." She notes that when groups of bicyclists engage in "political expression and advocacy, authorities attempt to criminalize it. The more popular and independent such movements are, the likelier it is that state forces will engage in intimidating tactics to undermine or stop them."

In the past, this spying on and infiltration of activists was largely the purview of the FBI, but in recent years, with the creation of Fusion Centers by the Department of Homeland Security, many different levels of law enforcement are now working with intelligence agencies and corporate partners. The most out of control of these local police agencies is the NYPD's Counterintelligence Unit. After 9/11, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly expanded the Intelligence Division ten fold and added to its mission a terrorism related "collection platform for New York City," according to a secret Intelligence document obtained by the Associated Press and website NYPD Confidential.

The revelations from whistle blower Edward Snowden that began on June 6, 2013 about NSA spying, informed people about the extent to which government and corporations are monitoring individuals. With this newfound awareness, people are responding with appropriate outrage against the surveillance state. New York City's new mayor, Bill De Blasio, had made central to his campaign the fact that certain aspects of the NYPD have overreached, including warrantless stops and frisks.

In fact, the corporate watchdog group Essential Information [EI], founded by Ralph Nader, released a report in November detailing how corporations are increasing their surveillance of nonprofit organizations that they view as potential threats. EI reports that businesses are employing military, former law enforcement and intelligence agencies to monitor and even infiltrate groups advocating on such issues as the environment, animal rights and food safety.

As Time's Up explained to The SHADOW: "People are taking action in many ways, but we must protect local nonprofit and community groups which are at the heart of improving society and holding leaders accountable. We can do this by being ever vigilant and supportive. Modern day provocateurs are much like the famous programs decades ago COINTELPRO where a wide range of methods were used, from negative rumors aimed at discrediting people to even violence, such as the murder of Black Panther Fred Hampton in Chicago. All of these tactics were aimed at derailing the grass-roots work of community groups."

SOME THOUGHTS ON HOW TO BEAT POLICE INFILTRATION AND DISRUPTION OF OUR WORK

By A. Bertoli

Don't allow the desire for and benefits of "transparency" within your organization to function as a weapon against you and become a detriment to the mission and direction of the group. In other words, allowing "every Tom, Dick and Harry in Blue" to intervene ("infiltrate") in your organization by way of "open" meetings and "democratic" processes, will result in the obstructing and derailing, confusing and distracting, and ultimately the shutting down of your organization. This is something that we need to guard against.

Allowing volunteers and others new to the group access to decision making powers and the shaping of policy and strategy should only be sanctioned after careful deliberation and the putting in place of structures that protect the integrity and politics of the organization. In other words, in a world of good and cops, we should not be so naive as to be victimized by undercover police and their informer hirelings who aim to disrupt our work and to do so by way of using the democratic processes and our aspiration to transparency against us.

Bottom line: The state's intent is to shut down progressive organizing by first seeing to it that existing radical leadership (deemed a problem) is targeted, demonized and removed, especially those committed to direct action work.

Their initial point of entry into our work is via the avenues that we foolishly provide when we open ourselves, our organization, our strategy and tactics, our bank accounts, projected actions, for penetration by the man. We need to be smarter than that: less dove, more wolf.

If your group is suffering and enduring such a process, don't fret. They know not what they do, but we do! Through consolidating progressive radical forces within the organization you can shut out those who intend to shut you down and out. In other words, turn the tables on the cops and their stooges and don't be fooled by the police informers and their disingenuous and calculated call for more openness and transparency, disingenuous because they intend nothing other that to derail, blunt and shut down your work.

THE JFK ASSASSINATION

Continued from page 1

he was assigned to El Toro Air Station in California with security clearance to work radar.

Strange things began to happen. While at El Toro, Oswald emerged as a babbling Russophile and a "communist." He started playing Russian language records at blast level in his barracks and addressing his fellow Marines in Russian, calling them "comrade." He read Russian books and hailed Soviet Communism as "the best system in the world." If Oswald was a Soviet or a Cuban spy, as some people now claim, he certainly had a novel way of building a cover.

Philip Melanson, author of Spy Saga, a book about Oswald's links to intelligence, reminds us that the U.S. Marine Corps in 1958 was not exactly a bastion of liberal tolerance and freethinking. But in this instance, for some strange reason, Oswald's Marine commanders did not seem to mind having a ranting commie sympathizer in their midst. In fact, he kept his security clearance and retained access to a wealth of sensitive radar information and classified data from secret facilities!

Other odd things happened. In February 1959, Oswald failed the Marine Corps proficiency test in Russian. Six months later, he had developed some fluency in that language. In 1974, a document classified by the Warren Commission and dislodged mostly by Harold Weisberg's legal efforts revealed that Oswald had attended the U.S. Army's School of Languages at Monterey. Monterey is not open to anyone who just happens to have a language hobby. One is sent by the government, for training in a specific language pertaining to a specific assignment. Oswald learned Russian at Monterey.

Another curious thing: Oswald applied for an early dependency discharge from the Marines because his mother had injured her foot the accident had occurred a year earlier. He was released one week after putting in his request, a decision so swift as to astonish his fellow Marines.

LUXURY DEFECTION

Oswald then "defected" to the USSR, but how? Melanson notes that such a trip would have cost at least $1,500 in those days, but Oswald's bank account showed a balance of $203. And how did he get from London to Helsinki on October 11, 1959, when no available commercial flight could have made it in one day? He must have had some kind of private transportation to Helsinki.

Once in Russia, he went to the U.S. embassy and openly renounced his U.S. citizenship, declaring that he was going to give military secrets to the Soviets. Embassy officials made no effort to detain him. As the KGB files opened in 1991 show, the Soviets kept him under constant surveillance. KGB defector Yuri Nosenko, who had been responsible for investigating every contact Oswald made in the USSR, reported that the young American had never been associated with Soviet intelligence and that the KGB suspected he was connected with U.S. intelligence.

While in Russia, Oswald belonged to a gun club at the factory in which he worked, though he showed no interest in guns. He reportedly used to join in rabbit shoots, but could never score a hit. Someone would have to stand behind him and shoot the rabbit while he was firing. His performance became something of a joke among his co workers. His marksmanship in the U.S. Marines had been no better.

U.S. intelligence mysteriously departed from normal procedure and made no damage assessment of Oswald's "defection," or so they claimed. Another odd thing: after two and a half years, Oswald's sudden request to return to the United States was immediately granted by U.S. officials all this after he had threatened to give away state secrets to the Soviets. Instead of being arrested for treason, Oswald was accepted with open arms by U.S. authorities.

The CIA claimed it had no record of debriefing him and was never near him. Their explanation before the Warren Commission was that there were so many tourists coming in and out and there was nothing particularly unusual about Oswald that would have caught their attention. One might wonder what was needed to catch the CIA's attention.

Yet, CIA officials claimed they had suspected all along that he was a Soviet spy which makes it even more curious that they did not debrief him. In fact, they did debrief him in Holland. But being so eager to cover up any association with Oswald, they could not recognize how in this instance the truth would have been a less suspicious cover than the improbable lie they told about never noticing his return.

State Department officials also behaved strangely. They paid all travel and moving expenses back to the United States for Oswald and his wife. Without a moment's delay, they gave him back his passport with full rights to travel anywhere in the world. Another curious thing: his wife was exempted from the usual immigration quotas and granted immediate entry. Years before, she had belonged to the Soviet Komsomol, the Communist youth organization, which automatically would have barred her from the United States. Yet, in violation of U.S. immigration laws, she was allowed into the country with Oswald.

THE FBI/CIA "LEFTIST"

In Dallas, Lee Harvey Oswald settled under the wing of White Russian emigré and former cavalry officer George de Mohrenschildt, an aristocratic reactionary and an associate of oil millionaires H. L. Hunt and Clint Murchinson and other Dallas economic elites. In de Mohrenschildt's telephone book was found the name of George "Poppy" Bush. A correspondence existed between Bush Sr. and de Mohrenschildt, indicating that they were personal acquaintances.

De Mohrenschildt and his wife Jeanne were identified by the Warren Commission as the people closest to Oswald just before the assassination. An investigator for the House Select Committee, Gaeton Fonzi, noted, "Given his background, it seemed strange that de Mohrenschildt would have spontaneously befriended someone with the look of a working class drifter like Lee Harvey Oswald." That was not the only strange thing about de Mohrenschildt. He also was part of a network of ex Nazis contracted by the CIA.

A CIA memorandum written not long after Oswald returned from Russia advised de Mohrenschildt on how to handle the young "defector." De Mohrenschildt also had a close friendship with J. Walter Moore, who was an agent of the CIA's Domestic Contacts Division. As de Mohrenschildt told one investigator just before his sudden death, it was Moore who encouraged him to see Oswald. Investigator Jim Marrs observes in his book Crossfire: "The CIA memos, Moore's closeness, and de Mohrenschildt's own testimony all confirm that a certain relationship existed between the CIA and the man closest to Oswald in early 1963. While this does not necessarily involve the Agency in a plot to kill Kennedy, it raises questions about what Agency officials might have known regarding such a plot."

Oswald embarked on a series of short lived public forays as a "leftist." He started a one person Fair Play for Cuba chapter in New Orleans, without ever bothering to recruit another member. He never met with a single member of the Communist Party or any other left organization, although he wrote friendly letters to the Communist Party and to the Socialist Workers Party (two groups that were not even talking to each other) supposedly asking for instructions. Again, all this was a puzzling way for a Soviet agent and would be assassin to act.

He blazed a highly visible trail as a "leftist" agitator: managing to get exposure on local T.V. in New Orleans after getting involved in some fistfights while leafleting. One of the leaflets he distributed showed that his organization was on Camp Street, in the very same building that a former FBI bureau chief, Guy Banister, had his office. Banister retained close working relations with émigré' Cuban right wing groups and with Lee Harvey Oswald.

When he wasn't playing the communist agitator, Oswald spent most of his time with rabid anti communists, including émigré Cubans and CIA operatives. Besides Banister and de Mohrenschildt, there was David Ferrie. (In his book First Hand Knowledge, Robert Morrow, a conservative businessman and CIA operative, tells how he served as a pilot on CIA missions with Ferrie.) Oswald also knew businessman Clay Shaw who was CIA, as later confirmed by the agency's director Richard Helms. These were hardly the sort of friends we would expect for a loudmouthed "Marxist revolutionary" just returned from giving away classified secrets in the USSR.

The attorney general of Texas, Waggoner Carr, told the Warren Commission that Oswald was an FBI informant or contract agent, with assigned number S 172 or S 179. For his services, Oswald was paid two hundred dollars a month by the FBI. [2] Orest Pena, a Cuban émigré and FBI informant, told Mark Lane that Oswald worked for the FBI and met with FBI personnel from time to time.

If not paid by security agencies, how did Oswald support himself during his forays into New Orleans and Dallas? He was employed for a brief time in 1962 by a printing company in Dallas that specialized in highly classified government work, including the making of secret maps of the Soviet Union for U.S. Army Intelligence again hardly the sort of job to assign an openly pro Soviet communist agitator. Oswald's overall employment record and income sources remain something of a mystery. To this day, the U.S. government refuses to release his tax returns, with no explanation as to what issue of national security is at stake.

THE IMPOSSIBLE "ASSASSIN"

We are asked to believe that Oswald just happened to get a job at the Texas School Book Depository five weeks before the assassination, when it had not yet been publicized that Kennedy's limousine was going to pass in front of that building. In fact, George de Mohrenschildt got him the job.

We are asked to believe that Oswald, who could not hit the side of a barn, chose a Mannlicher Carcano to kill the president, a cheap, poor performance Italian rifle that the Italians jokingly said never killed anyone on purpose and caused them to lose World War II.

We are asked to believe that Oswald would forgo shooting President Kennedy when he had a perfect target of him as he rode right down Houston Street directly toward the Texas School Book Depository. Instead, he supposedly waited until the car had turned down Elm Street and was a half block away. With the President's head and shoulders barely visible through a tree, Oswald supposedly fired rapidly, getting off three shots in record time, one missing the limousine by twenty five feet and the other two hitting their target with devastating accuracy and record rapid succession, a feat the best marksmen in the country found impossible to emulate, even after much practice and after the sights on the Mannlicher Carcano were properly reset in a laboratory. [3]

We are asked to believe that Oswald then left his rifle at the window, complete with a perfect palm print and, they now say, his fingerprints (but no fingerprints on the clip or hand-loaded cartridges), along with three spent shells placed on the floor neatly in a row, in a manner no spent shells would fall.

We are asked to believe that a bullet would go through John Kennedy, pause in mid air, change direction, and wound Texas Governor John Connally in several places something Connally never believed and reappear perfectly intact wedged into the flap of a stretcher in Parkland Hospital, supposedly having fallen out of Connally's body, but obviously pushed into the flap by hand. (It became known as the "magic bullet" among skeptics.)

We are asked to believe that only three shots were fired when, in fact, six bullets were noted: one that entered the president's throat and remained in his body; the second extracted from Governor Connally's thigh; a third discovered on the stretcher; a fourth found in fragments in the limousine; a fifth that missed the president's car by a wide margin, hitting the curb, according to several witnesses, and wounding onlooker James Thomas Teague on his face; a sixth found in the grass by Dallas police directly across from where the president's vehicle had passed.

The Secret Service took possession of the presidential limousine, ignored reports in the St. Louis Post Dispatch (12/1/63) that there was a bullet hole in the windshield, and rejected all requests to inspect the vehicle. The inside of the limousine, a trove of physical evidence, was then quickly torn out and rebuilt, supposedly with no thought of covering up anything.

We are asked to believe that Kennedy's autopsy was innocently botched and his brain just accidentally disappeared. The X ray purporting to be Kennedy's head now shows a rear entry wound, different from the rear exit wound all the pathologists saw. Someone cropped the jaw out of the picture, so there is no opportunity to determine

Continued on following page

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JFK, Continued from page 10

by dental identification if the X ray really is the president's.

We are asked by people like Max Holland, writing in the Nation, to believe that the "infamous picture of Oswald posing with rifle in hand" is not a forgery. Actually, there are two pictures, both proven composites, with bodies of different sizes, but with the identical head that matches neither body, and with shadows going in incongruous directions. Who fabricated these well publicized photos?

RUBBING OUT THE WITNESSES

The supposedly "lone leftist assassin," Lee Harvey Oswald, was a friend of Jack Ruby, a gangster with links to Cuban exiles and the FBI. Ruby once worked for Congressman Richard Nixon and the House Un-American Activities Committee in Chicago when his name was still Jacob Rubenstein. He also worked for the FBI in Dallas during the years before the JFK assassination. Ruby claimed he was just an ordinary private citizen, moved to kill Oswald in order to avenge the suffering Oswald had inflicted upon the Kennedy family. [4]

While in prison, Ruby pleaded with the Warren Commission to be taken to Washington where he could tell the whole story. He feared for his life and claimed "they are killing me here." Indeed, he died in jail, supposedly of natural causes.

We are asked to believe that when twenty four persons who had information related to the case met violent deaths, this was a colossal coincidence. [5] In 1978, after the House Select Committee investigation got underway, author Anthony Summers records that another sixteen connected to the case died violently. This too supposedly was just a coincidence. This latter group included George de Mohrenschildt, killed by a gun blast to the head three hours after a House Assassinations Committee Investigator had tried to contact him. De Mohrenschildt had been worried that he would be murdered. His daughter Kressy Keardon believes it "impossible" that he shot himself. The sheriff's office in Palm County, Florida, found the shooting "very strange." But it was ruled a suicide. Generally, people who voice fears that they might be killed do not then kill themselves.

William Sullivan, number three man in the FBI, was secretly on the CIA payroll, according to CIA operative Robert Morrow. He was scheduled to appear before the House Select Committee, but before he could do so, he was shot outside his home by a man who claimed to have mistaken him for a deer. The killer was charged with a misdemeanor and released in custody of his father, a state policeman.

While under government protection, mobster Sam Giancana was shot dead a day before he was to testify before the House Select Committee about mob and CIA connections. One of the things that emerges from this whole sto-

Continued on page 19

REMEMBERING MAE BRUSSELL (1922 – 1988)

By Paul Krassner

Mae Brussell was a twice-divorced suburban homemaker with five children. In her forties, she had an affair with Henry Miller, and he became a significant influence on her life. When President Kennedy was killed, Mae's seven-year-old daughter saw Lee Harvey Oswald on TV – he had a black eye and was saying, "I didn't do it, I haven't killed anybody, I don't know what this is all about." She decided to send him her teddy bear. It was all wrapped up and ready to mail when she saw Oswald murdered by Jack Ruby on TV. Mae had to wonder, "What kind of world are we bringing our children into?"

One bit of research led to another, and she started a weekly radio program, "Dialogue Assassination," originating on her local rock station, KLRB in Carmel, California, and syndicated to a half-dozen other stations. What had begun as a hobby turned into a lifetime pilgrimage. She purchased the Warren Commission report for $86, studying and cross-referencing the entire twenty-six volumes, without the aid of a computer. It took her eight years and 27,000 typewritten pages. She was overwhelmed by the difference between the evidence and the commission's conclusion that there had been only a single assassin. In fact, she concluded:

"Lee Harvey Oswald was set up to take the fall. But the Warren Commission ignored physical evidence from the scene of the crime – bullets, weapons, clothing, wounds – and based its judgment that Oswald was just a disturbed loner on the testimony of some thirty Russian emigrés in the Dallas-Forth Worth area. Most of them, according to the testimony, were affiliated with anti-Communist organizations that had collaborated with the Nazis during the war."

Then she began to study the history of 600 Nazis brought to this country after World War II under Project Paperclip. They were infiltrated into hospitals, universities, and the aerospace industry, further developing their techniques in propaganda, mind control, and behavior modification. She observed how the patterns of murder in the United States were identical to those in Nazi Germany. The parallels between the rise of Adolf Hitler and the rise of Richard Nixon were frightening to Mae. Hitler came into power as the result of more than four hundred political assassinations. So, rather than just investigating the death of John Kennedy, she collected articles about the murders of people involved in his assassination.

And, instead of limiting her research to the killing of Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of George Wallace, she began paying attention to the untimely, suspicious deaths of judges, attorneys, labor leaders, professors, civil rights activists, reporters, authors, Black Panthers, Chicanos, Native Americans – and Mary Jo Kopechne. Mae believed that Chappaquiddick was yet another CIA-orchestrated dirty deed; the National Safety Council had never found a single case of anybody escaping from a submerged car the way Senator Ted Kennedy supposedly had.

One afternoon in February 1972, Mae read in The Realist about the lawsuit in response to my announcement of "The Rise of Sirhan Sirhan in the Scientology Hierarchy." She immediately phoned to assure me that Scientologists had nothing to do with the assassination of Robert Kennedy.

"Oh, I knew that," I told her, "but the article was just gonna be a satire, and they took it seriously. I'm working on something else now instead. Let me ask, do you know anything about the Manson case?"

"Of course," she said. "The so-called Manson murders were actually orchestrated by military intelligence in order to destroy the counterculture movement. It's no different from the Special Forces in Vietnam, disguised as Vietcong, killing and slaughtering to make the Vietcong look bad."

"Oh, really? Could I come see you?"

My Prankster friend Hassler drove me to Mae Brussell's home. She was about fifty, plump and energetic, wearing a long peasant dress patch-worked with philosophical tidbits, knitting sweaters for her children while she breathlessly described the architecture of an invisible government. Her walls were lined with forty file cabinets containing 1,600 subject categories.

Every day, Mae would digest ten newspapers from around the country, supplementing that diet with items sent to her by a network of researchers and young conspiracy students known as Brussell Sprouts – plus magazines, underground papers, unpublished manuscripts, court affidavits, documents from the National Archives, FBI and CIA material obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and hundreds of books on espionage and assassination. Each Sunday she would sort out the previous week's clippings into various categories as though she were conducting a symphony of horror.

"About 80 percent of all CIA intelligence information comes from printed news," she said, "so I am doing what they are doing, without being paid, and without selectively writing my own history, but using all the material."

"So how come you're still alive?" I asked.

"Well, I'm not," she chuckled. "I'm a robot."

But it was obviously a question that she had considered. If she knew so much, why hadn't they killed her?

"The CIA works on a basis of need-to-know," she explained. "Because if you know too much, you may not do what you're supposed to do. You must have a given order to do something, but if you know that the end result is that somebody's going to be blown up twelve miles away – and all you're supposed to do is deliver an envelope – you may think about it. One agent called me – he had killed ten people for the CIA. When members of the CIA cut his jugular vein, he had to sew it up, and he vowed vengeance against them because he had killed ten people, and when he was ordered to kill a member of Congress,

he wanted to stop. Various agents listen to my program. It's a safety valve for them, on how far things are going."

"Are you saying that the intelligence community has allowed you to function precisely because you know more than any of them?"

"Exactly," she said, laughing at her own truth.

I stayed overnight, devouring material from her massive files. For Mae, although the ultimate mystery would remain forever inconceivable, assassination research had become her spiritual quest for truth. Conspiracy became her Zen grid for perceiving political reality, drawing her deeper and deeper into a separate reality that Carlos Castaneda never dreamed of. (The mysterious author of the New Age bestseller, A Separate Reality, was, of course, one of the three tramps arrested at the grassy knoll.)

I had originally intended to write a satirical article on the Manson case, but now I had stumbled upon an American version of the Reichstag fire. The next morning, my head was still swirling in the afterglow of a fresh conversion. On the bus, I pondered a theological question Mae had posed:

"How many coincidences does it take to make a plot?"

[The above is excerpted from Paul Krassner's latest book, an expanded and updated edition of his autobiography, Confessions of a Raving, Unconfined Nut: Misadventures in the Counterculture, available at paulkrassner.com, along with the infamous Disneyland Memorial Orgy digitally colored poster. Krassner published The Realist from 1958-2001. When abortion was illegal, he ran a free underground referral service and was a co-founder of the Youth International Party (Yippie!) The author of several books, he received the Playboy Award (for satire) and the Feminist Party Media Workshop Award (for journalism). He was inducted into the Cannabis Cup Counterculture Hall of Fame and honored by the writers' organization PEN with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Krassner's radio interview with Mae Brussell in 1972 can be heard at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?y=L5rHkx4qWaw.]

ALSO:

Read "The Nazi Connection to the Assassination of John F. Kennedy", by Mae Brussell from Larry Flynt's investigative journalism magazine The Rebel:

http://ce399fascism.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/rebel_11 22 83.pdf.

Mae Brussell radio broadcasts from 1971-1988 can heard by going to:

http://worldwatchers.info/

Mae Brussell websites, books and articles can be seen at:
http://www.whale.to/b/brussell.html

The Mae Brussell reference site:
http://www.prouty.org/brussell/

Read "The Last Words of Lee Harvey Oswald", by Mae Brussell at: http://www.ratical.org/ratville/JFK/LHO.html

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"It's Worth The Trip Down The Street!"

Mr. URSTADT AND HIS LAW

BY SETH TOBOCMAN & JESS WEHRLE

BACK IN 1970 A YOUNG PERSON COULD COME TO NEW YORK AND FIND AN APARTMENT FOR LESS THAN $200 A MONTH.

THIS WAS BECAUSE RENT LAWS PASSED IN THE 1940S KEPT LANDLORDS FROM CHARGING TOO MUCH.

LANDLORDS, LIKE CHARLES URSTADT, DID NOT LIKE THIS.

URSTADT CAME FROM A BIG NEW YORK REAL ESTATE FAMILY.

HIS BUDDY, GOVERNOR ROCKEFELLER, CAME FROM OIL MONEY.

ROCK MADE CHARLES HEAD OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY RENEWAL.

1967

URSTADT WROTE A LAW WHICH SAID THAT NEW YORK CITY COULD NOT HAVE RENT LAWS STRONGER THAN THOSE PASSED BY NEW YORK STATE.

1971

THIS PUT RENT LAWS UNDER THE CONTROL OF STATE POLITICIANS IN ALBANY.

WHO HAD FEW TENANTS IN THEIR DISTRICTS.

SO RENT LAWS GOT WEAK-ER. NOW WE LIVE IN FEAR OF EVICTION OR PAY HUGE RENTS.

URSTADT LEFT GOVERNMENT IN 1978 TO GO BACK TO REAL ESTATE.

HE'D USED HIS OFFICE TO REVISE RULES AFFECTING HIS OWN INDUSTRY.

IN 2012 URSTADT GAVE $32,200 TO THE REPUBLICANS

$3,500 TO DEMOCRATS.

MR. URSTADT IS OVER 80 AND HE STILL GOES SWIMMING. THE URSTADT LAW IS GOOD FOR URSTADT.

BUT IF YOU ARE A TENANT IT ISN'T GOOD FOR YOU!

TIME TO REPEAL THE URSTADT LAW.

DOWN BY LAW

THE POLICE STATE...

By Ron Kuby, Attorney At Large

Is not coming to get you. We do not live in a police state. Nor are we close to one. In fact, as a Constitutional matter, Americans today enjoy a wide range of personal liberties unimaginable a century ago. Indeed, by the standards of America in 1913, we live in a nation of exuberant anarchy. So everyone should just chill the fuck out—at least a little bit.

I know that recent revelations about NSA spying and the PRISM program have goosed up the left's general paranoia (the right just buys more guns). But if we are going to have a meaningful discussion, we need to have an analytical framework somewhat more sophisticated than screaming "It's like Nazi Germany!" And since I'm doing the writing, I'll start.

The Fourth Amendment generally protects, from governmental intrusion, the things in which we have "a reasonable expectation of privacy." The Supreme Court has declared that, to meet this standard, we must have a subjective expectation of privacy—we are acting like we want to keep this thing private. So we pull our shades down, close our doors, and do not expose the "secret" thing in public. Second, the expectation of privacy has to be one that society considers reasonable. As much as you wish to keep private the drug stash you left buried under the trash, you do not have a socially-approved expectation of privacy in your garbage. So those surveillance cameras that are everywhere in lower Manhattan are perfectly lawful—you do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy when you walk around in public.

And establishing a Fourth Amendment right to privacy is just the first step. The government has the right to intrude on your right when it makes a proper showing, which is usually proportionate to the intrusion. So to stop and frisk you, the police need merely reasonable suspicion that you are armed or engaged in criminal activity. But to arrest you, they need probable cause to believe you have committed a crime. And to convict you (although this falls within a different Amendment), they need proof beyond a reasonable doubt. And to execute you (yet another Amendment), they need even more proof of other things beyond a reasonable doubt.

Imagine a horizontal line. At one end, the government executes you—the most extreme intrusion into your life and liberty. At the other end, there are "intrusions" that are so minimal that not only are you unaware of them, but you would not change your behavior if you were. Into this latter category we can put the NSA collection of all telephone numbers that you call, and the nice cameras that record you walking by. Generally, the lesser the intrusion into a protected area, the less showing the government needs to justify it. And when the government is not intruding into any area that is constitutionally protected, they need make no showing at all.

So to think about these things in a useful manner, you first have to determine whether you have a "right" that is being infringed upon. Having found a right, you have to determine whether the government's infringement on it is properly justified. If not, then, and only then, do you have a Constitutional violation and some redress in the courts.

Of course, just because something is legal, it does not mean it is a good idea. I have a legal right to walk down the street stark naked with a rifle on my shoulder and swastika's painted on my body as part of an epigrammatic performance piece on fascism; it is still a dumb and offensive thing to do. The NSA data collection is probably perfectly legal, but as a policy matter, it sucks—it promotes distrust of government without any demonstrating corresponding benefit to security. But policy discussions belong in the legislative and executive branch discussions—courts do not (nor should they), make policy decisions.

Nor should law enforcement be permitted (again, as a policy matter) to do perfectly legal things without oversight and mechanisms that prevent abuse. But asserting that because the government can abuse its power, it will abuse its power and we should act like it is abusing its power is not a rational argument for the government not to have the power. It is a strong argument for enforceable restrictions to prevent the potential harm. The "slippery slope" argument is a logical fallacy, especially when we are talking about matters of law. We draw all types of lines all the time in the legal world without the fear that if the government does "x," it will do "y," and the next stop is the concentration camp.

Until next time….

PULL THE PLUG ON THE NSA!

By Frank Morales

Despite the furor over the escalating revelations over NSA spying, the pro NSA "business as usual" crowd on Congressional intelligence committees are about to introduce legislation blessing the spy agency's massive domestic cyber surveillance operations. Others though, including Congressmen Udall, Wyden and Heinrich, are seeking to pass legislation more in keeping with the wishes of the great majority of the American people who value their liberty and their privacy; who agree with Ben Franklin, who once said that "those who sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither."

Their legislation, the Intelligence Oversight and Surveillance Reform Act, would end the bulk mass collection of Americans' communications data by requiring the government to prove to a court that it is seeking call records relevant to either an agent of a foreign power who is the subject of a terrorism investigation or someone with a link to that agent. Such a requirement would make bulk collection impossible. In addition, the bill would prohibit the government from conducting warrantless "backdoor searches" of Americans' communications—including emails, text messages and Internet use. The bill would also create a "constitutional advocate" to present an opposing view when the spy masters and their lackey lawyers consider major questions of law or constitutional interpretation.

Now of course, along with new law, the Congress might also consider repealing some of the old atrocious law that underlies NSA spying, such as Section 215 of the USA (un) PATRIOT Act, which along with the FISA Amendments Act sanctions state secrets. This would make it abundantly clear that blanket surveillance of Internet activity and phone records of any person residing in the US, is prohibited by law and that violations can be reviewed in adversarial proceedings before a public court.

There are other avenues through which Americans can push back against the NSA. By targeting, pressuring and boycotting Internet providers, servers and the "public" utility companies to cease collaborating with criminal spies, the people can exert economic clout in defense of their privacy. The agency actually has an Achilles heel: Resources. By denying the NSA necessary cooperation from state and local utility agencies, such as water and electricity, which it needs to run its spy machinery, an enlightened citizenry can enact a constitutionally valid strategy and "pull the plug on the NSA"!! Without public enablement the spooks would be powerless.

Lastly, there are a number of steps states can be taking right now to enhance the growing movement on the state and local level for beefing up Fourth Amendment protections. "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated," and can only be secured from below, by way of grass roots campaigns. This is also true of the First Amendment, the right to speak out and "whistle blow" when in defense of the community, of democracy and freedom.

Pushing back against the NSA won't be easy. After all, they've been spying on us, in the interests of elite social control, via Echelon, Total Information Awareness and the current Prism program for quite some time. Nevertheless, to sit idly by and watch an agency that is supposed to defend the Constitution shred the very fabric it was woven out of, and in the process violate our rights and limit our freedoms at every turn, is unacceptable. Consequently, following the lead of the heroic Edward Snowden and all the others, we need to take action!

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CAPTAIN JUSTICE

By Joe Gehrin, Esq.

Tennessee Lawyer Drew Justice, aka Captain Justice, Responds to Government's Motion to Not Be Called "The Government", Tennessee v. Powell, Case No. I CR 086639 B (Cir. Ct., Williamson County, Tenn., undated).

This story has made the rounds but is worth repeating here if for no reason other than many of my current and former law students at the University of Memphis claim an association with Franklin, Tennessee lawyer Drew Justice, aka Captain Justice.

In a criminal case in which Mr. Justice represents the defendant, the government filed a motion in limine to prohibit the defense from referring to the prosecution as "the government," asserting it was prejudicial. Justice replied that such a ban would violate the first amendment, but went on to argue, that should the court agree with the government, er, the prosecution, what's good for the goose should be good for the gander:

Should this Court disagree, and feel inclined to let the parties basically pick their own designations and ban words, then the defense has a few additional suggestions for amending the speech code. First, the Defendant no longer wants to be called "the Defendant." This rather archaic term of art, obviously has a fairly negative connotation. It unfairly demeans, and dehumanizes Mr. Donald Powell. The word "defendant" should be banned. At trial, Mr. Powell hereby demands be addressed only by his full name, preceded by the title "Mister." Alternatively, he may be called simply "the Citizen Accused." This latter title sounds more respectable than the criminal "Defendant." The designation "That innocent man" would also be acceptable.

Moreover, defense counsel does not wish to be referred to as a "lawyer," or a "defense attorney." Those terms are substantially more prejudicial than probative. See Tenn. R. Evid. 403.Rather, counsel for the Citizen Accused should be referred to primarily as the "Defender of the Innocent." This title seems particularly appropriate, because every Citizen Accused is presumed innocent. Alternatively, counsel would also accept the designation "Guardian of the Realm."

Further, the Citizen Accused humbly requests an appropriate military title for his own representative, to match that of the opposing counsel. Whenever addressed by name, the name "Captain Justice" will be appropriate. While less impressive than "General," still, the more humble term seems suitable. After all, the Captain represents only a Citizen Accused, whereas the General represents an entire State.

Along these same lines, even the term "defense" does not sound very likable. The whole idea of being defensive, comes across to most people as suspicious. So to prevent the jury from being unfairly misled by this ancient English terminology, the opposition to the Plaintiff hereby names itself "the Resistance." Obviously, this terminology need only extend throughout the duration of the trial — not to any pretrial motions. During its heroic struggle against the State, the Resistance goes on the attack, not just the defense.

WHEREFORE, Captain Justice, Guardian of the Realm and Leader of the Resistance, primarily asks that the Court deny the State's motion, as lacking legal basis. Alternatively, the Citizen Accused moves for an order in limine modifying the speech code as aforementioned, and requiring any other euphemisms and feel good terms as the Court finds appropriate.

[Thanks to Lorcan Otway for passing this on to The SHADOW]

BANK DEPOSITS TO BE CONFISCATED

By Matthias Chang (Global Research)

I challenge anyone to prove me wrong that confiscation of bank deposits is legalized daylight robbery

Bank depositors in the UK and USA may think that their bank deposits would not be confiscated as they are insured and no government would dare embark on such a drastic action to bail out insolvent banks.

Before I explain why confiscation of bank deposits in the UK and US is a certainty and absolutely legal, I need all readers of this article to do the following:

Ask your local police, sheriffs, lawyers, judges the following questions:

1) If I place my money with a lawyer as a stake holder and he uses the money without my consent, has the lawyer committed a crime?

2) If I store a bushel of wheat or cotton in a warehouse and the owner of the warehouse sold my wheat/cotton without my consent or authority, has the warehouse owner committed a crime?

3) If I place monies with my broker (stock or commodity) and the broker uses my monies for other purposes and or contrary to my instructions, has the broker committed a crime?

I am confident that the answer to the above questions is a Yes!

However, for the purposes of this article, I would like to first highlight the situation of the deposit / storage of wheat with a warehouse owner in relation to the deposit of money / storage with a banker.

First, you will notice that all wheat is the same i.e. the wheat in one bushel is no different from the wheat in another bushel. Likewise with cotton, it is indistinguishable. The deposit of a bushel of wheat with the warehouse owner in law constitutes a bailment. Ownership of the bushel of wheat remains with you and there is no transfer of ownership at all to the warehouse owner.

And as stated above, if the owner sells the bushel of wheat without your consent or authority, he has committed a crime as well as having committed a civil wrong (a tort) of conversion—converting your property to his own use and he can be sued.

Let me use another analogy. If a cashier in a supermarket removes $100 from the till on Friday to have a frolic on Saturday, he has committed theft, even though he may replace the $100 on Monday without the knowledge of the owner / manager of the supermarket. The $100 the cashier stole on Friday is also indistinguishable from the $100 he put back in the till on Monday. In both situations—the wheat in the warehouse and the $100 dollar bill in the till, which have been unlawfully misappropriated would constitute a crime.

Keep this principle and issue at the back of your mind.

Now we shall proceed with the money that you have deposited with your banker.

I am sure that most of you have little or no knowledge about banking, specifically fractional reserve banking.

Since you were a little kid, your parents have encouraged you to save some money to instill in you the good habit of money management.

And when you grew up and got married, you in turn instilled the same discipline in your children. Your faith in the integrity of the bank is almost absolute. Your money in the bank would earn an interest income.

And when you want your money back, all you needed to do is to withdraw the money together with the accumulated interest. Never for a moment did you think that you had transferred ownership of your money to the bank. Your belief was grounded in like manner as the owner of the bushel of wheat stored in the warehouse.

However, this belief is and has always been a lie. You were led to believe this lie because of savvy advertisements by the banks and government assurances that your money is safe and is protected by deposit insurance.

But, the insurance does not cover all the monies that you have deposited in the bank, but to a limited amount e.g. $250,000 in the US by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Germany €100,000, UK £85,000 etc.

But, unlike the owner of the bushel of wheat who has deposited the wheat with the warehouse owner, your ownership of the monies that you have deposited with the bank is transferred to the bank and all you have is the right to demand its repayment. And, if the bank fails to repay your monies (e.g. $100), your only remedy is to sue the bank and if the bank is insolvent you get nothing.

You may recover some of your money if your deposit is covered by an insurance scheme as referred to earlier but in a fixed amount. But, there is a catch here. Most insurance schemes whether backed by the government or not do not have sufficient monies to cover all the deposits in the banking system.

So, in the worst case scenario—a systemic collapse, there is no way for you to get your money back.

In fact, and as illustrated in the Cyprus banking fiasco, the authorities went to the extent of confiscating your deposits to pay the banks' creditors. When that happened, ordinary citizens and financial analysts cried out that such confiscation was daylight robbery. But, is it?

Surprise, surprise!

It will come as a shock to all of you to know that such daylight robbery is perfectly legal and this has been so for hundreds of years.

Let me explain:

The reason is that unlike the owner of the bushel of wheat whose ownership of the wheat WAS NEVER TRANSFERRED to the warehouse owner when the same was deposited, the moment you deposited your money with the bank, the ownership is transferred to the bank.

Your status is that of A CREDITOR TO THE BANK and the BANK IS IN LAW A DEBTOR to you. You are deemed to have "lent" your money to the bank for the bank to apply to its banking business (even to gamble in the biggest casino in the world—the global derivatives casino).

You have become a creditor, AN UNSECURED CREDITOR. Therefore, by law, in the insolvency of a bank, you as an unsecured creditor stand last in the queue of creditors to be paid out of any funds and or assets which the bank has to pay its creditors. The secured creditors are always first in line to be paid. It is only after secured creditors have been paid and there are still some funds left (usually, not much, more often zilch!) that unsecured creditors are paid and the sums pro rated among all the unsecured creditors.

This is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

The law has been in existence for hundreds of years and was established in England by the House of Lords in the case Foley v Hill in 1848.

When a customer deposits money with his banker, the relationship that arises is one of creditor and debtor, with the banker liable to repay the money deposited when demanded by the customer. Once money has been paid to the banker, it belongs to the banker and he is free to use the money for his own purpose.

I will now quote the relevant portion of the judgment of the House of Lords handed down by Lord Cottenham, the Lord Chancellor. He stated thus:

"Money when paid into a bank, ceases altogether to be the money of the principal… it is then the money of the banker, who is bound to return an equivalent by paying a similar sum to that deposited with him when he is asked for it.

The money paid into the banker's, is money known by the principal to be placed there for the purpose of being under the control of the banker; it is then the banker's money; he is known to deal with it as his own; he makes what profit of it he can, which profit he retains himself,…

The money placed in the custody of the banker is, to all intent and purposes, the money of the banker, to do with it as he pleases; he is guilty of no breach of trust in employing it; he is not answerable TO THE PRINCIPAL IF HE PUTS IT INTO JEOPARDY, IF HE ENGAGES IN A HAZARDOUS SPECULATION; he is not bound to keep it or deal with it as the property of the principal, but he is of course answerable for the amount, because he has contracted, having received that money, to repay to the principal, when demanded, a sum equivalent to that paid into his hands." (quoted in UK Law Essays, Relationship Between A Banker And Customer,That Of A Creditor/Debtor, emphasis added,)

Holding that the relationship between a banker and his customer was one of debtor and creditor and not one of trusteeship, Lord Brougham said:

"This trade of a banker is to receive money, and use it as if it were his own, he becoming debtor to the person who has lent or deposited with him the money to use as his own, and for which money he is accountable as a debtor. I cannot at all confound the situation of a banker with that of a trustee, and conclude that the banker is a debtor with a fiduciary character."

In plain simple English—bankers cannot be prosecuted for breach of trust, because it owes no fiduciary duty to the depositor / customer, as he is deemed to be using his own money to speculate etc. There is absolutely no criminal liability.

The trillion dollar question is, Why has no one in the Justice Department or other government agencies mentioned this legal principle?

The reason why no one dare speak this legal truth is because there would be a run on the banks when all the Joe Six Packs wise up to the fact that their deposits with the bankers CONSTITUTE IN LAW A LOAN TO THE BANK and the bank can do whatever it likes, even to indulge in hazardous speculation such as gambling in the global derivative casino.

The Joe Six Packs always consider the bank the creditor even when he deposits money in the bank. No depositor ever considers himself as the creditor!

Yes, Eric Holder, the US Attorney General, is right when he said that bankers cannot be prosecuted for the losses suffered by the bank. This is because a banker cannot be prosecuted for losing his "own money," as stated by the House of Lords. This is because when money is deposited with the bank, that money belongs to the banker.

The reason that if a banker is prosecuted it would collapse the entire banking system is a big lie.

The US Attorney General could not and would not state the legal principle because it would cause a run on the banks when people discover that their monies are not safe with bankers as they can in law use the monies deposited as their own even to speculate.

What is worrisome is that your right to be repaid arises only when you demand payment.

Obviously, when you demand payment, the bank must pay you. But, if you demand payment after the bank has collapsed and is insolvent, it is too late. Your entitlement to be repaid is that of a lonely unsecured creditor and only if there are funds left after liquidation to be paid out to all the unsecured creditors and the remaining funds to be pro rated. You would be lucky to get ten cents on the dollar.

So, when the Bank of England, the FED and the BIS issued the guidelines which became the template for the Cyprus "bail in" (which was endorsed by the G 20 Cannes Summit in 2011), it was merely a circuitous way of stating the legal position without arousing the wrath of the people, as they well knew that if the truth was out, there would be a revolution and blood on the streets. It is therefore not surprising that the global central bankers came out with this nonsensical advisory:

"The objective of an effective resolution regime is to make feasible the resolution of financial institutions without severe systemic disruption and without exposing taxpayers to losses, while protecting vital economic functions through mechanisms which make it possible for shareholders and unsecured and uninsured creditors to absorb losses in a manner that respects the hierarchy of claims in liquidation."(quoted in FSB Consultative Document: Effective Resolution of Systemically …)

This is the kind of complex technical jargon used by bankers to confuse the people, especially depositors and to cover up what I have stated in plain and simple English in the foregoing paragraphs.

The key words of the BIS guideline are:

"without severe systemic disruptions" (i.e. bank runs),

"while protecting vital economic functions" (i.e. protecting vested interests—bankers),

"unsecured creditors" (i.e. your monies, you are the dummy),

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SHADOW BOOK REVIEW:

MARY'S MOSAIC: The CIA Conspiracy to Murder John F. Kennedy, Mary Pinchot Meyer, and their Vision for World Peace

by Peter Janney

Reviewed by A. Kronstadt

Peter Janney's account of the mysterious 1964 murder of Washington D.C. artist, socialite, and ex CIA wife Mary Pinchot Meyer is a riveting, albeit complex, introduction to the personalities surrounding President John Fitzgerald Kennedy at the moment of his murder and the motives that led a specific element within the U.S. government to plot his assassination. Since the story is so complicated, it is best to lay out Janney's premises up front.

Mary Pinchot Meyer was revealed in a 1976 National Enquirer article by Bernie Ward and Granville Toogood to have been a lover of JFK during the last two years of his life. The source of the story was Washington Post vice president James Truitt, husband of artist Ann Truitt who was one of Mary Meyer's best friends. James Truitt was the first to mention a diary that Mary Meyer had been keeping that detailed her relationship with the president.

The story of Kennedy's affair with Mary Meyer was further developed by Nina Burleigh in her 1998 biography of Meyer, entitled: The Life and Unsolved Murder of Presidential Mistress Mary Meyer.

Mary Pinchot Meyer

Mary Meyer's diary features prominently in Burleigh's account of the days following Mary Meyer's murder in 1964, in which James Jesus Angleton (CIA Associate Deputy Director of Operations for Counterintelligence), aka "The Locksmith," was encountered breaking into Mary Meyer's studio and launching a feverish search for the diary.

Yet another dimension was added to the story of Mary Meyer and Kennedy's relationship by Dr. Timothy Leary, who claimed that Mary Pinchot Meyer had approached him in 1962 wanting information on how to set up an LSD session. [According to Leary in his 1983 autobiography Flashbacks,] Mary Meyer had explained to him that she was part of a circle of women in Washington D.C. who had personal relationships with men in power, and who were steering them in the direction of peace [using psychedelics], as a means of bringing the cold war and nuclear threat to an end. Meyer implied to Leary that she had a close relationship with JFK. In Flashbacks, Leary described a call from Mary Meyer soon after Kennedy was assassinated, during which she sobbed and said, "They couldn't control him any more. He was changing too fast...They've covered everything up. I gotta come see you. I'm afraid. Be careful."

Perhaps the earliest public revelation of the amorous relationship between JFK and Mary Pinchot Meyer was made by Washington Post owner Phil Graham from the podium at a meeting of journalists in Arizona in January, 1963, where Graham, admittedly suffering from mental problems and drinking heavily, was having an attack of verbal diarrhea. [Just] hours after his utterances, Graham was seized and carted off to a mental hospital by a team of men summoned by James Truitt. Graham died of an allegedly self inflicted shotgun wound in August 1963.

Janney also comments on the death of yet another source frequently cited in Mary's Mosaic, Leo Damore, who had interviewed Timothy Leary in 1990, concerning the relationship between Meyer and Kennedy, and who delved more deeply into the search of Mary Meyer's home and studio by James Angleton on the night of her death. In 1995, before his findings were published, Damore died of an apparently "self inflicted" gunshot wound. As Janney muses in regard to the serial suicides of several people who got too close to the crux of the Mary Meyer murder, "the small gauge shotgun somehow kept emerging as the final companion of choice."

Janney's research draws on these sources as well as others, including [his] deep personal experience with the protagonists in the story. Peter Janney is the son of CIA official Wistar Janney, who was a colleague of all the masterminds of covert action given free reign under the Eisenhower Administration, including Allen Dulles, Frank Wisner, James Jesus Angleton and Cord Meyer, who was married to Mary Pinchot Meyer from 1945 to 1959. Cord Meyer and Wistar Janney socialized with one another young Peter Janney, in the mid 1950s, was the best friend of Cord and Mary Meyer's son Michael, who was killed in an accident. Peter Janney and Mary Meyer had deeply bonded over the loss.

Janney's anecdotes from his childhood show Mary Meyer as the original 60's type, bohemian, unashamed of her body, gentle with kids in contrast to his own cold, distant, conventional parents. Janney seems to retain an element of a childhood crush on Mary Meyer, [whose murder when he was 17 years old wreaked psychological and physical havoc upon him.]

Mary Pinchot Meyer was shot to death on the afternoon of October 12, 1964, in a public park near her Georgetown, Washington D.C. home where she had the habit of taking solitary walks each day. The shooting had a highly professional character about it—she was shot in the head and then directly through her aorta.

Janney goes into great detail on the trial of Ray Crump, a black man from D.C. who was found confused and disheveled inside the park after the police sealed it off. No murder weapon was found, and although the prosecution made a great deal of effort to match Crump's clothing to that of the shooter as described by witnesses, there was a big discrepancy between Crump's height and that of the alleged assailant. The prosecution was maintaining that it was an attempted rape or possibly robbery, which did not square well with the physical evidence of an execution style slaying. Crump was [ultimately] acquitted after trial. The police investigated no other suspects.

Mary's Mosaic is subtitled The CIA Conspiracy to Murder John F. Kennedy, Mary Pinchot Meyer, and their Vision for World Peace. Janney's story has a clear villain—the CIA—and he does not hesitate to suggest that his own father Wistar Janney had a role in the events leading up to the assassination of Kennedy and the murder of Mary Meyer.

The essential tension in the story, and the conflict that resulted in but certainly did not end with the assassination of the president, is between an arrogant CIA and a young president who was moving toward a clean break with the prevailing post World War II mentality. The CIA had set itself up as the defender of this mentality; its leaders saw themselves as the only people who knew enough about world affairs to be trusted with America's relationship to the rest of the planet. The "Company" [gave] [arrogated to] itself powers that went far beyond the agency's original mandate for information gathering. The nickname that they gave themselves, i.e., the Company, suggested that the agency had transformed itself into a kind of private corporation, with its own goals and agendas, including covert actions such as the overthrow of the elected governments of Jacopo Arbenz in Guatemala and that of Mohammad Mossadegh in Iran, leaders who were not even geopolitical enemies of America because of ties to the Soviet Union but [who were] simply nationalists who had reclaimed some of their oil resources from U.S. companies (in the case of Mossadegh) or promulgated land reform at the expense of United Fruit Company (in the case of Arbenz.)

Kennedy was starting to rethink the advisers, particularly the CIA officials and high military brass, who talked him into allowing the ill fated 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba to take place. He is quoted as saying that he wanted to "splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter it into the winds," and he moved toward believing that the CIA's mission should be pure intelligence gathering.

[After the Bay of Pigs fiasco,] Kennedy fired Allen Dulles, the originator of the CIA's covert action department, as Director of Central Intelligence and replaced him with John McCone, a Democratic colleague of the Kennedy family. The rank and file agents, and particularly high officials such as James Jesus Angleton who were steering policy, remained loyal to their mentor Dulles, keeping McCone completely in the dark.

Even as Kennedy was evolving away from the cold war and covert action mentality, the covert action mentality itself was continuing to evolve, and the evil karma surrounding the overthrow of democratically-elected leaders abroad was reflecting back upon American democracy itself. Janney's book centers around one key question was the assassination of John F. Kennedy yet another CIA covert operation, yet another coup d'état, like any one of a dozen or more that the Company engineered around the world? The CIA had a motive, namely that Kennedy wished to truncate its power, and also had the means to carry it out through a worldwide network of assassins. When Kennedy began moving away from the goals established by Allen Dulles, refusing to escalate the Vietnam conflict and moving toward diplomatic solutions in regard to the Soviet Union and Cuba, the CIA, as Janney chronicles, did not stop short of targeting the President of the United States himself. Subsequently, they the had a unique ability to cover up the trail in that Allen Dulles, former Director of Central Intelligence who had been dismissed by Kennedy, was appointed a member of the Warren Commission over Congressional objections that his hostility toward Kennedy would influence his judgment.

Peter Janney does not stop with describing the general motives that the CIA had for wanting to do away with Kennedy, but brings us directly into the social milieu where the conspiracy incubated and where the major personalities rubbed elbows. An incestuous network of CIA tinged personalities surrounded JFK since his earliest days in the upscale Washington neighborhood of Georgetown, where he and Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy moved in 1946 after he had been elected a Congressman from Massachusetts. These people were all members of a common social class.

Janney chronicles Kennedy's transformation in the context of the people surrounding him. Kennedy lived, prior to his election to the presidency, in a tightly knit upper class intellectual enclave surrounding Georgetown University. The milieu encompassed all of the different types of people who made up the ruling class or political class of Washington. At this level of society at that time it was difficult to divide the spectrum neatly into left versus right or even pacifist versus warlike. At the center of it all was Georgetown University, and institution of higher learning founded by the Jesuits, the intellectual Catholic order which has its own history of covert action and espionage, which has welcomed to its faculty many present and former U.S. intelligence officials. Kennedy must have felt at home in this environment because his father, Joseph P. Kennedy, had been a high ranking State Department official with his own intelligence connections.

Among the CIA officials who attended the same social functions as the Kennedys during the late 50's, immediately preceding his run for the presidency, was Cord Meyer, whose marriage to Mary Pinchot, scion of a wealthy intellectual Pennsylvania family, was becoming strained by Mary's rebellion against the CIA milieu into which her husband's intellectual evolution had involuntarily thrust her. Cord Meyer, a Marine war hero, had been a proponent of world peace and world government in the

Continued on page 11

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years following World War II, but, in his own words, had become disillusioned with pacifism when he saw the advances being made in the world by the Soviet Union and Communism. He then began to believe that a more effective way to prevent war was by pursuing a career in the CIA to subvert Communism by covert means, which were in his mind still more civilized than war.

Cord Meyer had been closely involved with pioneering journalist and future Washington Post chief Ben Bradlee in carrying forth Operation Mockingbird, an effort by the CIA to influence media outlets and the presentation of news at home and abroad. Bradlee was married to Mary Meyer's sister Toni. In addition, just to show how incestuous these circles were, Mary Meyer's best friend from her alma mater liberal Vassar college was the wife of James Angleton, who worked with agency founder Allen Dulles as one of the original godfathers of CIA covert operations. Angleton and Dulles were also part of the Georgetown social set that included Cord Meyer, Mary Pinchot Meyer, Ben Bradlee, and of course John F. Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy.

Mary Meyer had been brought up and educated as a member of the left liberal wing of America's upper crust. Her father, Amos Pinchot, was a famous lawyer of the Progressive Era and a contributor to the leftist journal The Masses. She had married a different Cord Meyer from the one who was, in the late 50's,

Investigators at the crime scene, October 12, 1964.

a CIA bureaucrat no different from Angleton or Dulles (or Peter Janney's father Wistar Janney).

Mary's desire to seek out more broad-minded companionship led her to become a lover of John F. Kennedy. This relationship would continue until Kennedy's death. One might speculate that in addition to whatever other motives they might have for killing JFK, the fact that he was the lover of a high CIA official's ex wife no doubt made Kennedy a subject of chatter at Company cocktail parties.

The most action packed parts of Janney's chronicle concern the bizarre events in the hours immediately following the shooting of Mary Meyer. Angleton and Mary Meyer's brother in law Ben Bradlee had apparently teamed up to find Mary's diary and were determined to get their hands on it as soon as possible after her death. Supposedly, Angleton had gotten authorization from Mary's friend Ann Truitt, whom Mary had entrusted with the safekeeping of the diary in the event that anything happened to her, to locate and take possession of the diary.

Angleton was not a close friend of Mary Meyer, though he was a colleague and buddy of Cord Meyer. There is no reason why Mary Meyer would have wanted this creepy superspy in possession of her diary, or why Ann Truitt would have assumed such a thing; it is clear that Angleton himself had arranged this pretext. After breaking locks on both Meyers' house and her studio, Angleton and Bradlee failed to find the diary, but it reportedly ended up in Angleton's hands after Toni Bradlee found it and simply gave it to him on request. Angleton claimed that he had burned the diary to save Kennedy and Meyer from the embarrassment of the affair.

Angleton died in 1987 and the whereabouts of the diary are now unknown. Why was Angleton involved in this in the first place, and why was he so determined to make the diary disappear? Why was Ben Bradlee, a CIA connected journalist involved with the agency in manipulation of the news, helping him to do this? Bradlee's description of the chronology of this search for the diary and whether Angleton was present or not varies between his testimony at the Crump trial and what he mentions in his 1995 autobiography. Is all of this evasiveness simply a rather futile effort to hide Kennedy's polygamous nature from the public, or was there something else in that diary that Angleton and Bradlee could not allow to be exposed?

Janney postulates a central role for James Angleton in the killings of both John F. Kennedy and Mary Meyer. Meyer knew something about the CIA's role in the Kennedy assassination from her own relationship to Kennedy, and from the milieu of CIA spooks in which she lived. Angleton knew that she had to be eliminated and any written record of her knowledge suppressed.

Janney however gets into a deep analysis of the events of Meyer's murder. in which speculation plays perhaps too much of a role. He suggests that a team of CIA operatives working in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath where Mary Meyer was killed had carefully framed Ray Crump, who they noticed had drunkenly passed out on the edge of the Potomac River after an inept love tryst, in the hours and minutes leading up to Meyer's shooting. According to the speculations, these agents even went so far as to plant a broken down car next to the murder scene so that a mechanic would show up and witness a black man near the body wearing a particular kind of jacket, and then arranged for the harbor patrol to dredge a jacket meeting that description out of the water near where Crump was arrested. These assumptions do not have enough facts to back them up, and may detract to some extent from the believability of Janney's very cogent argument that the CIA killed Kennedy and then did away with Mary Meyer as part of the cover up.

Mary's Mosaic is valuable reading 50 years following the assassination of Kennedy because Peter Janney does such a good job of establishing the players who wanted JFK dead. Kennedy lived and loved in an environment that included people who were hostile to him and to his goals for America and the world.

Although Angleton and his generation of assassins are dead, their successors still arrogate to themselves the right to subvert democracy and impose their agenda on society. It is essential for us to understand the coup d'etat that took place on November 22, 1963 if we are to fight for a better society half a century later.

MARY'S MOSAIC: The CIA Conspiracy to Murder John F. Kennedy, Mary Pinchot Meyer, and their Vision for World Peace
By Peter Janney
(Skyhorse Publishing, 2013)

THE TAMPA SCENARIO:

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION AND THE SECRET SERVICE WHITEWASH

By John Harris

JFK, to San Antonio Congressman Henry Gonzalez on 11/21/63: "The Secret Service told me that they had taken care of everything there's nothing to worry about."

Soon after the Warren Commission convened in the aftermath of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the compelling question emerged as to why there were no Secret Service Agents riding on the back of the Lincoln Continental carrying President Kennedy during the Dallas, Texas motorcade to protect, and if necessary, to take a bullet for the President. Later, as more facts presented themselves, there were other glaring omissions of security.

We have clear evidence that a key member of his protection team, specifically ATSAIC Emory Roberts, initiated a "stand down" that left Kennedy unprotected when he waved Secret Service agent Donald Lawton off the back of the Lincoln in well documented footage of the motorcade leaving Love Field airport. Except for a couple of instances when agent Clint Hill jumped on the back of the Lincoln just before making the dogleg turn through Dealey Plaza, there is no evidence of any agents riding on the back of the Lincoln during the ride through the densely packed streets of Dallas. There were only four motorcycle cops riding behind the Lincoln, and absolutely no police presence on the rooftops or anywhere else along the motorcade route. According to Vincent Palamara in his book Survivors Guilt, this kind of rooftop police presence was a normal security procedure for motorcades in other cities, including Milwaukee in 1962, Tampa on November 18, 1963 and Fort Worth on the day of the assassination.

In his exhaustive study of the Secret Service's actions on the President's trip to Dallas on November 22, 1963, Palamara explores the various areas in which the Secret Service's protections of Kennedy were incomprehensibly non existent that day. Apparently, the Warren Commission took notice as well and decided to depose Director of the Secret Service James J. Rowley. perhaps in an attempt to at least partially forestall the inconvenient and embarrassing questions to come, Rowley had five agents, including Jerry Behn, Floyd Boring, Emory Roberts, John Ready and Clint Hill, submit reports on the particular matter of agents riding on the back of the Lincoln. Behn in particular was quoted as saying unequivocally in his report that JFK "told me that he did not want agents riding on the back of his car". The other agent's reports corroborated what Behn said in no uncertain terms: Kennedy had demanded no agents riding on the back of the Lincoln during the motorcade that had traveled through Tampa on November 18th.

Equally embarrassing was the incident the night before the assassination when, according to the columnist Drew Pearson, several agents were spotted drinking in a Fort Worth "beatnik" club called The Cellar. Earl Warren was infuriated when he found out that Rowley and certain counsel on the commission tried to omit mention of this violation of Secret Service protocol when he exclaimed to Rowley during examination, "Don't you think that if a man went to bed reasonably early, and hadn't been drinking the night before, he would be more alert in than if he stayed up until 3,4, 5 o'clock in the morning, going to 'beatnik' joints and doing some drinking along the way?" Rowley stammered his way through a series of excuses before exclaiming, "we don't condone their actions, nor do we try to belittle the violation. But in the circumstances, I took the decision that I thought right…I don't think these people should be blamed for the tragedy." Ultimately, despite counsel's objections, Warren compelled them to include mention of this incident in the final version of the Warren Commission Report.

As Palamara became more obsessed with the possibility of Secret Service complicity in the assassination, he made a startling discovery when he interviewed Secret Service Agent Jerry Behn on the telephone in 1992, just before Behn died. To quote Palamara, Behn told him, 'I don't remember Kennedy ever saying that he didn't want anybody on the back of his car.' Behn added that "newsreel footage from the period will bear him out…". This 'myth' of Kennedy using presidential prerogative to limit his protection so that he might gain greater access to the people probably began with William Manchester's book, Death of a President:

"Kennedy grew weary of seeing bodyguards roosting behind him every time he turned around, and in Tampa on November 18, just four days before his death, he dryly asked Agent Floyd Boring to 'keep those Ivy League charlatans off the back of the car.' Boring wasn't offended. There had been no animosity in the remark."

Palamara claims that in a separate interview Floyd Boring essentially told him same thing, though Boring told him that he was never interviewed by Manchester. "'He quotes me?' Boring asked incredulously. 'I never told him that. He (JFK) was a very nice man…never interfered with us at all.'"

In 2010, Gerald Blaine, along with co writer Lisa McCubbin, published a crude "fictionalization" called The Kennedy Detail. It is nothing more than an apologia for the appalling ineptitude of the protection for the president that day and a veiled attack on Palamara's work, conspicuously mounting a nostalgic and anecdotal "blame the victim" defense of the Secret Service. Blaine lays the foundation for a whitewash at the beginning of his book when he asserts, "the Secret Service was not authorized to override a presidential decision".

Blaine hints broadly, without actually coming right out and saying it, that Kennedy was somehow complicit in his own assassination because he issued orders not only preventing the SS agents from riding on the back of the limousine, but also by reducing the number of local police motorcycle escorts to only four. Palamara theorizes that this cover story, as elaborated to Manchester, could well have originated with agent Emory Roberts, since he was one of the few Secret Service agents in Dallas that day that were actually interviewed by Manchester. By the time the agents had written

Continued on page 22

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ORGANIZE TO OCCUPY: SQUATTER NEWS

By Frank Morales

"Squatting in Europe: Radical Spaces, Urban Struggles," edited by the Squatting Europe Kollective (Sqek) with essays by Miguel Martínez, Gianni Piazza, Hans Pruijt, Pierpaolo Mudu, Claudio Cattaneo, Andre Holm, Armin Kuhn, Linus Owens, Florence Bouillon, Thomas Aguilera, and ETC Dee aims to move beyond the conventional understandings of squatting, investigating its history in Europe over the past four decades. Historical comparisons and analysis blend together examining efforts in the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, France, Germany and England.

In the book, the Squatting Europe Kollective [http://sqek.squat.net/] - a collection of academics, militant researchers and squatters explore the diverse, radical nature of squatting as a form of self-determination and self-managed knowledge production. The book, published by Minor Compositions and distributed by Autonomedia is also available online as a download at: http://www.minorcompositions.info/?p=504

Back in the USA, our good friend Hannah Dobbz recently published "Nine Tenths of the Law: Property and Resistance in the United States" (AK Press). It too is most definitely worth a look. The book examines the history of squatting in the US, the "urban homesteading" housing movement and property struggles in the America, from colonialism to 20th-century urban squatting, including the foreclosure crisis of the late 2000s. As Alan W. Moore puts it, "her book tells the hidden histories we badly need to know, from lone wolf opportunists to political activists acting selflessly to house others. We read about the big city stories—from New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco—and navigate the entanglements of the foreclosure crisis, how people remain homeless while homes remain peopleless"—and what people are doing about it!

Which gets us to our own work here in New York City. Organizing for Occupation (O4O), a "pop up" experimental organizing effort initiated back in 2012, galvanized many folks around a dual agenda of squatting vacant spaces for homes while also defending those facing eviction due to "predatory lending" (bank theft) and foreclosure. Mobilizing hundreds in defense of Bed-Stuy grandmother Mary Lee Ward (sending the marshal home empty handed), unleashing "Listen Auctioneer" singing brigades to courthouses of the rich; the group was also responsible for the covert seizing, occupying and renovating of a former crack house in East New York.

In a recent conversation with the squatter residents, Lucy and Irving told me that everything is going really well in their house. They have moved in their daughter and her new born and nephew. The house has really come together. They are warm, settled, secure in their home, a space that had suffered the ravages of years of abuse but which was brought up to par through the work of the O4O volunteer Construction Team and others and the community organizing effort to build local support. And here we are, almost two full years later and the squatter/homesteaders are thriving!

Meanwhile, other properties remain vacant—in fact three times more in this city than there are homeless folks! What are we gonna do? Well, by any and all means, squat the vacant spaces! To that end, if you would like more information on how you and your friends can squat, support others doing so, assist homeless people in their efforts, contact The SHADOW and ask for the zine "Squatting in NYC - 2013" and we will send you the good news about squatting.

Squat 4 Life!

NEW HISTORY MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS LES ACTIVIST HISTORY

By Bill Times Up

While we now take advantage of all the sustainable benefits that New York City has to offer, how these transformations came about from grassroots activism and direct action is less well known. Whether you call it the Lower East Side, the East Village, Alphabet City, or Loisaida, its impact on New York City and beyond is undeniable.

In the midst of the urban decay that plagued the Lower East Side in the 1970s, community members began to take matters into their own hands, making efforts to transform their neighborhood's vacant lots and abandoned buildings into beautiful community gardens, squats, homesteads, and community centers. When the City failed to maintain public spaces and provide social services to the people in this area, they responded by rolling up their sleeves and rebuilding the neighborhood themselves, creating safe, sustainable spaces on city property. In the process of restoring these spaces, community blossomed. Decisions were made collectively, skills were shared, and sustainable practices were adopted. This community history of the Lower East Side is now being documented by the Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space (MoRUS) through its exhibitions, workshops, tours, outreach, and special events. MoRUS, located in the storefront of legendary C Squat at 155 Avenue C, celebrated its one year anniversary in December.

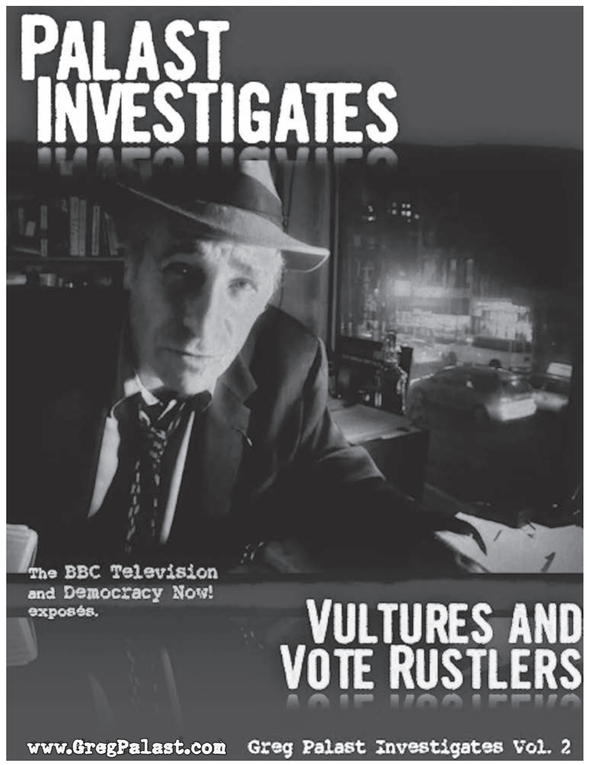
The Museum's collection begins with 1973, when the Green Guerrillas formed. This group of urban gardeners inspired the transformation of spaces by throwing "seed bombs" over fences into vacant lots, planting seeds in spaces along the streets, and installing flower boxes on the window sills of abandoned buildings. Community members came together to restore the spaces, implementing sustainable practices from urban agriculture and composting to recycling. The Lower East Side became a center for grassroots activism and experimentation.

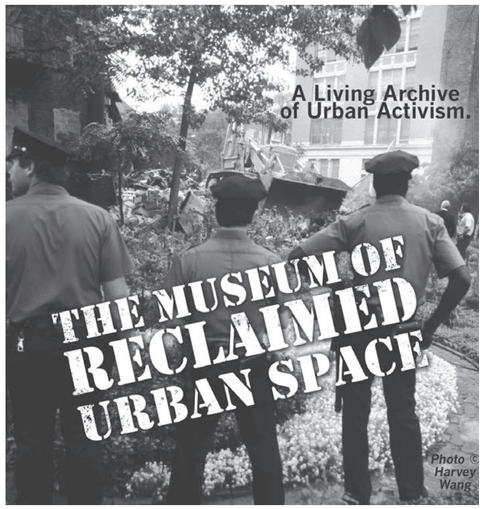
Activist groups began popping up all over, advocating for sustainable low income housing, safe bicycling infrastructure, and the permanence of community gardens for New York City. A place called the Hub Station, located right next to the Hell's Angels Headquarters on East Third Street, was a virtual laboratory for non polluting transportation where words like "pedal assist," "dump trike," "long john," "hybrid," and "electric backup," were the norm. Now these vehicles can be seen all over the city fulfilling a variety of everyday non polluting transportation needs. The pedicabs that now blanket the city were kick started by volunteers at the Hub Station as well.

Groups like Time's Up! Environmental Organization began organizing dozens of different group bike rides and events stemming from the Lower East Side in 1995 to build confidence and encourage new ridership. When Critical Mass reached New York City from San Francisco in 2000, thousands of riders gathered for monthly bikes rides on the last Friday of the month in a fun celebration of what our streets could look like. These rides not only created new riders, but also put pressure on the City to create new safe infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians.

All of these developments, as documented by MoRUS, met incredible challenges from City officials. From the massive struggle to protect our community gardens during the Giuliani administration (which vowed to destroy every one of them), to housing activist efforts to stop gentrification that culminated in the Tompkins Square Park police riots, to the numerous unfair arrests and harassment of the bicycling community. Despite much resistance, these community projects have since all been adopted and implemented by the City – from its recycling program modeled on that of the LES Ecology Center to the commuter cycling enabled by Citibike. The effects of grassroots activism on the Lower East Side can now be seen across the City and beyond. Where Critical Mass once held their bikes in the air in the center of Times Square is now auto-free.

[For more information and the latest events being organized by MoRUS, go to: http://morusnyc.org]





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I remember my first time when I met Will Sales....he was on stage...on a side street on the Lower East Side....this was back in the day...when musicians, poets, artists flourished in my neighborhood.... he was reading "Death of a Neighborhood", which I came later to illustrate.... I was living at Umbrella Haus....Umbrella was pretty raw at this time....and we were just working on our gardens....and constantly fighting eviction....police helicopters were in the sky and tanks on the street...a very different time from now...but we were fighting for our homes and Will Sales was out in front of this battle...he gave the rest of us... hope....that this could be reality one day....we will have a home....and he was right.....he was my friend...my mentor.... and I will always miss him....he remains in my heart...forever...

—Mac McGill

Death of a Neighborhood

Scattered through the graveyard of wasted city blocks
Are the snaggled tooth, hollow eyed shells
Of abandoned buildings,
Standing like old wounded animals waiting to die.

'What the hell happened here?' You say to a passerby
Who looks you dead in the eyes, and replies:

'They raped and murdered another neighborhood.
First they withdrew support. Banks, schools,
Hospitals, stores all closed down
And relocated across town.

Landlords—strangled their buildings to death
By cutting off gas, electric, heat.
Turning the once happy tenants into homeless refugees
Left to wander the graveyard streets

Fear, hunger and hate take hold: crime becomes king.
Another poor neighborhood shot through the head
And left for the dead.

Rebirth!

Then up from the wounded streets comes the cry:
This neighborhood ain't ready to die,
'Cause we've got songs that are yet to be sung,
Balled up fists with blows to be flung
Homes to be built for housing our elders
And raising our young

So sing your death song in some other tongue
And do your death dance on somebody else's stage

No, this neighborhood ain't ready to give up the ghost
We're planning on living our lives to the very utmost.
To live, not die—to live!

—Will Sales

THE JFK ASSASSINATION: DEFENDING THE GANGSTER STATE

Continued from page 11

ry is the widespread linkages between the CIA and organized crime, between the gangsters and the gangster state.

When the House committee was putting its staff together, it was heavily pressured to employ only persons acceptable to the CIA, the very agency it was supposed to investigate. In his book Plausible Denial, Mark Lane reports that when Bernard Fensterwald, an independent-minded Washington lawyer, was offered the job of general counsel, a CIA representative called on him and said that the Agency would hand him "his head on a platter" if he took the assignment. Fensterwald turned it down.

Is the Kennedy assassination conspiracy just a lot of hoopla kicked up by "conspiracy buffs"? Most of the independent investigators I have met seem to be serious politically literate people. Their struggle to arrive at the truth is not impelled by a love of conspiracies but by a concern for the political and historic importance of the case. They seek the truth no matter how dirty it might be. That process of confronting the machinations of the national security state is not a conspiracy hobby. It is an essential part of the struggle for democracy.

Let me end with a summary quotation by John Judge, co-founder of the Coalition on Political Assassinations (COPA) , which he was kind enough to send me:

"85% of the American public reject the findings of the Warren Commission report, as did the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978, finding instead "a probable conspiracy" in the murders of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. No federal investigation or action followed. We are the mainstream, not the dissent. Oswald's role as a patsy, not a shooter, is supported by all the best evidence that has been released. The real evidence clearly points to a crime and a cover up that reaches to the highest levels of the U.S. government and military."

[This article was originally published in Parenti's 1996 book, *Dirty Truths.* His recent book is *Waiting For Yesterday: Pages From A Street Kid's Life*, a memoir of his early life in Italian Harlem, along with things cultural and political, published by Bordighera Press, 150 pp. Parenti's web site is: www.michaelparenti.org]

Sources:

1. Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty, a military intelligence chief closely connected with the CIA, tells of his visit to "a special 'village' in the Mediterranean where a highly select group of stateless 'mechanics' in the CIA are hit men, assassins, and other related specialists. They are absolutely anonymous"; see his introduction to Mark Lane's *Plausible Denial* (New York: Thunder's Mouth Press, 1991). For a further discussion on U.S. repression abroad, see "Making the World Safe for Hypocrisy," also my two books Against Empire (San Francisco: City Lights Books, 1995); and The Sword and the Dollar (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989).

2. The Warren Commission reacted with extreme alarm toward Carr's testimony. Its general counsel, J. Lee Rankin said that evidence linking Oswald to the FBI "is very damaging to the agencies that are involved in it, and it must be wiped out insofar as it is possible to do so by this commission." The "wipe out" consisted of a statement from Hoover reassuring the commission that Oswald never worked for the FBI. In the New York Times edition of the Warren Commission report, Waggoner Carr's testimony is nowhere to be found.

3. In his political memoirs, Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil writes that Kenneth O'Donnell, a top JFK aide, said he was sure he had heard two shots that came from behind the fence on the grassy knoll. "I told the FBI what I had heard, but they said it couldn't have happened that way and that I must have been imagining things. So I testified the way they wanted me to." O'Neil reports that another top Kennedy aide, Dave Powers, who was present when O'Donnell made this statement, said he had the same recollection of the shots.

4. At a Washington, D.C. conference in October 1995, assassination investigator John M. Williams reported on an interview he had with Robert Morrow, March 10, 1994. Morrow said that on the day after JFK's assassination, Marshall Diggs, the man who recruited Morrow as a CIA operative, confided to him a warning of Oswald's impending assassination: "He won't be around to testify for his trial."

5. See Penn Jones, Jr., *Pardon My Grief* Vols. 1 and 2 for details about the death of these twenty four.

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BILL DE BLASIO & CLINTONGATE

Continued from page 4

polluting of rivers and streams…

"In 1991, a year after promising he would serve a full four year term as governor if reelected, Clinton announced his candidacy for president of the United States…

"Banking and financial interests were not bashful about supporting the Arkansas governor. In 1992, candidate Clinton received at least $853,295 in campaign contributions from the financial sector…And the company that produced more than $100,000 and the largest number of individual contributors was the New York based securities firm Goldman Sachs…The Clinton administration has pursued and served the American business community more aggressively and more systematically than any previous administration…"

Bill de Blasio, who, along with former Clinton White House Senior Advisor George Stephanopoulos, was chosen to be a Truman Scholar by the secretive Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation in the early 1980s, agreed to serve the Clintons as Bill Clinton's New York campaign director during Clinton's 1996 presidential re election campaign and during Clinton's 1996 re election campaign. "The Democratic Party accepted so many contributions of questionable origin that it ultimately was forced to return at least $2.8 million in illegal or improper donations," according to Charles Lewis and the Center for Public Integrity's book The Buying of The President 2000.

Apparently as a reward for his role as Bill Clinton's New York campaign director in 1996, de Blasio was then given a high salaried, publicly funded job as Regional Director for the Clinton Administration's Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD], which uses federal funds to provide lucrative corporate welfare subsidies to big private real estate developers and landlords who agree to build or rent privately owned, but federally subsidized, housing units to "moderate" income, elderly and, sometimes, "low" income tenants, on a generally for profit basis.

BILL DE BLASIO'S DINKINS ADMINISTRATION CONNECTION

Bill Clinton was not the first Democratic politician who primarily represented the special corporate interests of Wall Street banks and New York City real estate developers, rather than the economic and political class interests of Lower East Side tenants and activists—that de Blasio served.

Under the name "Bill Wilhelm", he had been an NYU undergraduate student politico in the early 1980s. By 1984, "he was calling himself Bill de Blasio;" and he then "joined the 1984 presidential campaign" of the Democratic presidential candidate who opposed Jesse Jackson's attempt to be the 1984 Democratic Party presidential nominee—former Trilateral Commission member Walter Mondale, serving "as a field organizer in Connecticut," according to an October 6, 2013 New York Daily News article.

After attending Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and graduating in May 1987, de Blasio spent a year at the religious left oriented Quixote Center (which provided humanitarian aid to people in Nicaragua who were then being victimized by the CIA organized Contra War to overthrow the anti imperialist Sandinista government in that country), before agreeing to serve as a campaign coordinator for former Inner City Broadcasting board member and 1989 New York City mayoral candidate David Dinkins. Following Dinkins' election, de Blasio served as a mayoral aide/staff person between 1990 and 1994..

During the period when de Blasio was a member of the Dinkins administration, Mayor Dinkins ordered his police force to violently shove homeless people and their supporters out of Tompkins Square Park, destroy its band shell and flood the Lower East Side with police. And, after the Dinkins administration obtained a court injunction that denied the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization [ILGO] its democratic right to march up Fifth Avenue on St. Patrick's Day to protest against homophobia in March 1993, Dinkins ordered his police force to block the ILGO marchers and arrest 170 of the 1,500 ILGO protesters.

According to the book Trump, by Wayne Barrett, during the 1989 New York City mayoral campaign, Donald Trump "had Tony Gliedman, an old tennis buddy of David Dinkins, heading a real estate fund raising committee for the Dinkins campaign;" and, according to Donald Axelrod's Shadow Government, in July 1990, the Dinkins administration "selected five underwriters from a field of 53 companies to sell $6 billion in bonds: Bear, Stearns; Goldman Sachs; First Boston, Shearing Lehman Hutton; and Merrill Lynch. The New York Times later revealed that all five had contributed $233,000 to the campaign of Mayor Dinkins and Comptroller Elizabeth Holtzman."

The pro corporate and pro real estate developer policies of the Democratic Dinkins administration—that de Blasio was a part of between 1990 and 1994—failed to provide apartments for the homeless in New York City, failed to roll back rents for tenants in New York City to pre-1971 levels and failed to create more jobs at union wages for New York City's unemployed workers. In 1992. For example, "the number of homeless families pouring into city shelters and welfare hotels…reached an all time high of 5,238," according to Newsday (7/15/92); and by January 1993, the official unemployment rate in New York City under the Dinkins administration had jumped to 13.4 percent. The record of the Democratic "Dinkins de Blasio" administration between 1990 and 1994 was also summarized by the publication of the Metropolitan Council on Housing, Tenant, in May 1993:

"Dinkins' record on the homeless is `long on rhetoric and short on achievement,' says Steve Banks, coordinator of the Legal Aid Society's Homeless Family Rights Project. There are more and more homeless instead of fewer, with the administration equally unable to stem the tide of recession rooted evictions or help those who find themselves without a home. The number of homeless families in the city's shelter system has nearly doubled from 3,200 in July 1990 to a record 5,600 in January of this year."

BILL DE BLASIO'S PETER VALLONE SR./C&V CONNECTION

During the 1990s, Bill de Blasio also served as a senior aide to a Democratic Speaker of the New York City Council named Peter Vallone, Sr. Vallone has, in recent years, been a "Principal" in the for profit lobbying firm of Constantinople & Vallone Consulting LLC [C&V]. As the website of the C&V lobbying firm notes:

"Peter Vallone, Sr. is a New Yorker… Vallone served as Speaker of the New York City Council from 1986 through 2001… As Speaker, Peter was the City's top legislator… Peter's ability to reach all levels of New York City…government is unparalleled, and his vast experience results in the achievement of short and long term goals for C&V clients.… Peter's `Safe Streets — Safe City' rebuilt the police force from 26,000 to 41,000 officers...

"Constantinople & Vallone Consulting LLC is a results oriented government relations… firm with a strong record of success…C&V provides customized, hands on consulting services to a select group of clientele.…We at C&V believe that effective government relations is not just who you know, it's knowing who you need to know. C&V's principals bring a unique combination of experience and expertise in the sectors of government…C&V believes in creating and fostering an open dialogue with government officials...Constantinople & Vallone guides you through the entire governmental process…C&V has vast experience in dealing with both the New York City and State Executive branches and Legislatures…We get you in the door at every level, from staff to principal…We at C&V utilize the same strategy that served Peter Vallone, Sr. so well throughout his tenure at the City Council... For each project that we accept, C&V designs a strategy that touches all the bases necessary for success…"

An article in the Nov. 17, 2006 issue of the New York Sun contained the following reference to Donald Trump and the lobbying firm of de Blasio's former boss:

"The city is set to grant building permits to developer Donald Trump to construct a 45 story condominium hotel in SoHo...According to land use filings, the owners of the SoHo development site include Bayrock Development, the Sapir Organization, and Zar Realty Management.…Over the last year and a half, Zar Realty has paid more than $150,000 to Constantinople Consulting, the lobbying firm of a former speaker of the City Council, Peter Vallone Sr. On behalf of the developer, the firm lobbied the department of buildings, the planning commission, the City Council, the office of the Manhattan president, the office of the attorney general, and the office of the deputy mayor, according to filings with the state.…"

Not so coincidentally, according to the Office of the Public Advocate website, de Blasio met at least four times in his public office with lobbyists from the Constantinople & Vallone firm during his term as New York City's Public Advocate. On Sept. 21, 2010, for example, de Blasio had a meeting with Peter Vallone and Anthony Constantinople; and on July 27, 2011, Aug. 2, 2011 and Mar. 1, 2012, de Blasio had a meeting with C&V lobbyist Anthony Constantinople alone.

BILL DE BLASIO'S HILLARY CLINTON CONNECTION

In his 2000 book Rogue State, anti war writer William Blum indicated some of the reasons the husband of Hillary Clinton was considered responsible for war crimes by many anti war activists on the Lower East Side in 1999: "for his merciless bombing of the people of Yugoslavia for 78 days and nights, taking the lives of many hundreds of civilians and producing one of the greatest ecological catastrophes in history; for his relentless continuation of the sanctions and rocket attacks upon the people of Iraq; and for his illegal and lethal bombing of Somalia, Bosnia, Sudan and Afghanistan."

And most anti corporate activists on the Lower East Side in 1999 also opposed the pro NAFTA, pro WTO and pro IMF economic policies that both Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton promoted, which helped create a larger growth in economic inequality in the USA during the Democratic Clinton administration of the 1990s than in any previous U.S. administration.

Yet, Bill de Blasio agreed in late 1999 to serve the Clintons as Hillary Clinton's 2000 campaign manager when the wife of Arkansas's former governor (and then Democratic Party Boss Bill Clinton) wanted to "carpetbag" into New York State from the White House to grab a third seat in the U.S. Senate for Arkansas's political establishment; to use one of New York State's seats in the U.S. Senate as a stepping stone for a future U.S. presidential campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination and as a way to authorize a 2003 Pentagon attack on Iraq that most people in New York City opposed. As the New York Times observed in a December 4, 1999 article, titled "Clinton Senate Campaign Gets A Full Time Director:"

BILL DE BLASIO'S POLITICAL OFFICE SEEKING CAREER

As the New York Times recalled in an August 25, 2013 article, de Blasio's "assiduous courtship of Jewish leaders in Brooklyn" as Hillary Clinton's campaign manager in 2000 also "solidified his credentials for his own Council run in 2001," when the political operative from Cambridge, Massachusetts decided to seek elective political office for himself in New York City; and "colleagues even joked about his frequent trips to Brooklyn during the Senate race, and started calling him Councilman." The same article also noted that "his networking efforts paid off" because "Mrs. Clinton's Senate donors eventually accounted for more than a third of de Blasio's fund raising haul in his Council race, according to an analysis by the New York Times."

de Blasio claims to be pro tenant and sympathetic to the economic goals of democratic socialism and in favor of democratic change in New York City. Yet, as an elected member of the New York City Council between 2002 and 2010, de Blasio supported real estate developer Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project, despite the opposition of most people who lived in the Park Slope neighborhood (whose interests he had previously pledged to represent). As a long time African American Movement activist in New York City and New York City Council member, Charles Barron told the Brooklyn Paper in 2008 that de Blasio "supported Ratner!." In addition, as Barron also observed, de Blasio "supported the expansion of the 421 a subsidy, which is a handout to developers," although "developers should not get tax breaks for building projects that are 80 percent luxury housing."

Coincidentally, as Norman Oder observed in an October 19, 2011 post on his Atlantic Yards Reports blog, on May 23, 2010, Ratner "gave $4,950, the maximum," to the campaign chest of "Bill de Blasio, a likely 2013 mayoral candidate and a reliable, if not always credible, Atlantic Yards supporter;" and "Ratner…was the co chair of a de Blasio fund raiser." According to the Office of the Public Advocate website, on December 1, 2011, de Blasio met in his public office with Bruce Ratner and former Democratic New York Governor Mario Cuomo's special assistant, Suri Kasirer—who is now the president of the Kasirer Consulting Services lobbying firm that also represents the special corporate interests of clients such as Goldman Sachs, CBS, NBC, Time Warner, AIG and Goldman Sachs, to discuss the Atlantic Yards project that de Blasio still supports.

Dana Rubinstein also observed in an August 30, 2013 Capital website article, that "in fact, de Blasio's record as a councilman demonstrated a willingness to work with developers…using an approach to land use that at times bore a strong resemblance to Bloomberg's own.." As Rubinstein also recalled:

"In 2009, he [de Blasio] pushed through a rezoning of a development site on the Gowanus Canal so Toll Brothers could build 447 condos there. And, when Toll Brothers said they would pull out if the federal government declared the canal a Superfund site, de Blasio backed a Bloomberg alternative clean-up… Critics countered that Bloomberg's alternative clean up would prove less thorough.

Continued on following page

"And, like Bloomberg, but to the consternation of some very vocal Brooklyn Heights residents, he [de Blasio] supported the development of condos in Brooklyn Bridge Park…

"'When he talks to the real estate industry, he [de Blasio] tells us to look at his record,' one real estate executive told me…

"'Mr. de Blasio has never criticized the deeply flawed process that gifted a complete zoning override and 22 acres of valuable Brooklyn real estate to a single developer without any vote or any bidding process,' said Daniel Goldstein, the founder of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, which led the anti Atlantic Yards fight, in an email. `He's never railed against the sweetheart deal, or advocated on behalf of homeowners and tenants who faced the highly controversial use of eminent domain. From the start and right up to the minute, he has unconditionally supported the biggest land grab of the Bloomberg years, a deal made entirely in back rooms.'"…

"de Blasio was also a staunch supporter of a Toll Brothers proposal to build hundreds of condos on the banks of the Gowanus Canal, to the dismay of some residents.

"In March, Toll Brothers hosted a fund raiser for de Blasio at the developer's 99 Wall Street offices.

"'There's no difference between him and the mayor on development schemes, as far as we can see,' said Marlene Donnelly, a member of Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus, known as FROGG…"

After getting elected as New York City's Public Advocate in 2009, de Blasio apparently used his office as a stepping stone to more easily win election as New York City's mayor in 2013. As Public Advocate, de Blasio apparently served special economic and corporate interests, instead of serving the public interest. As one example, as the New York Times recalled in an August 31, 2013 article:

"New York City was planning to allow thousands of new taxis to operate outside Manhattan…It was hard to imagine Mr. de Blasio…opposing a proposal to improve transportation for his chronically taxi starved neighbors.… Mr. de Blasio would emerge as the taxi plan's most prominent opponent…and using his office to fight it in court — and confounding allies who found his stance incongruous with his typical stands.

"'I was flabbergasted,' said David S. Yassky, the taxi and limousine commissioner whose former City Council district borders Mr. de Blasio's. `After hearing all his rhetoric about standing up for the outer boroughs, here's a program that actually would help 80 percent of New York City, and he did everything he could to stop it.'"

"The powerful taxi and limousine industry, which bitterly opposed the city's plan, made its gratitude clear, sending about $200,000 in contributions to Mr. de Blasio's mayoral campaign in the last two years, far more than his rivals received. And Mr. Kabessa, the chief executive of Carmel Car and Limousine Service, now sits on the campaign's finance committee and was a host of a fund raiser for Mr. de Blasio in spring [of 2013].

"But a review of his years as public advocate shows that the office often served another aim: Elevating Mr. de Blasio's political ambitions and his profile in anticipation of a run for mayor… "

During his term as New York City's Public Advocate, de Blasio also apparently used his position to obtain the political and financial backing of Billionaire Speculator and Plutocrat George Soros (who also operates the tax exempt Open Society Institute foundation that subsidizes various left liberal middle class Non Governmental Organizations [NGOs] around the globe and left liberal, Democratic Party oriented middle class activists and NGOs in the United States).

As the New York Times also revealed in its August 31, 2013 article: "…Mr. de Blasio nurtured a relationship with George Soros, the billionaire financier, whose foundation became the single biggest benefactor of an obscure nonprofit organization that paid for Mr. de Blasio to promote his advocacy work around the country.…His advocacy brought him into contact with a powerful ally: Mr. Soros, who had long deplored the influence of corporations in the political system, even as he poured millions of his own fortune into campaigns.

"The billionaire banker and the Brooklyn activist met on an autumn evening in 2010, when Mr. de Blasio spoke on a panel…held in Mr. Soros's grand Fifth Avenue home. The two chatted afterward, and Mr. de Blasio promised to stay in touch.

"Four months later, Mr. Soros's foundation pledged $400,000 to the Fund for Public Advocacy…to support the work of the public advocate's office.

"The donation was the largest single contribution to the fund, a tax exempt 501(c)(3), during Mr. de Blasio's tenure.…"

Soros' foundation obtained the $400,000 it used to subsidize de Blasio's Fund for Public Advocacy from the surplus capital that Soros gets from speculating and investing in transnational corporations that exploit workers and middle class consumers around the globe.

The special private economic and class interests of Billionaire Soros and his Soros Fund Management firm conflict with the economic class interests of the public and most of the people in New York City who work and live in New York City.

For, unlike most people who live, work or grew up in New York City, George Soros and his Soros Fund Management LLC investment firm controlled or owned or collected dividends from over $5.7 billion worth of Wall Street corporate stock in 2013. According to its SEC filing, on June 30, 2013 the Soros Fund Management investment firm's portfolio included, for example, over $344 million worth of Google stock, over $112 million worth of AIG stock, over $76 million worth of Macys Inc. stock, over $32 million worth of Apple Inc. stock, over $30 million worth of Wal Mart stock, over $14 million worth of Time Warner Cable stock, over $3.4 million worth of Comcast stock, over 8 million worth of Citigroup stock and over $46 million worth of Loral Space & Communications stock.

Coincidentally, a retired Loral Space & Communications executive named Bernard Schwartz also gave "the maximum $4,950" to de Blasio's "mayoral bid, then poured $25,000 into the Fund for Public Advocacy," according to the August 31, 2013 article in the New York Times.

BILL DE BLASIO'S 2013 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

Besides apparently being able to collect up to $1,050 in public matching funds for each individual wealthy New York City resident who contributes over $175 to de Blasio's 2013 campaign to succeed Billionaire Plutocrat Bloomberg as the Big Apple's mayor in 2014, de Blasio's campaign has collected over $5.7 million, including a lot of individual campaign contributions of $4,950 from a number of extremely wealthy folks. As Christopher Robbins observed in an October 6, 2013 article on the Gothamist website:

"…We poked around the New York City Campaign Finance Board's handy searchable database to see who is emptying their pockets for a Mayor de Blasio.

"First: the Big Names. de Blasio said he'd build (metaphysical) "spaces" for Occupy Wall Street to thrive in, but Zuccotti Park's namesake, John Zuccotti of Brookfield Properties, donated $4,950 to the candidate during the last filing period, the maximum amount allowed by law.…Real estate developer Ben Shaoul, who sits on the vanguard of gentrification in the East Village, also donated the $4,950 maximum to de Blasio…So did real estate mogul Ed Scheetz.

"Michael Ratner, Karen Ranucci, and Ellen Ratner, who are developer Bruce Ratner's brother, sister in law, and sister, respectively, all donated the maximum amount to de Blasio's campaign…David Belt, a founding partner of DBI Construction Consultants… also donated the maximum amount to de Blasio, as did Jack Cayre, the CEO of Midtown Equities, the firm that is building the giant Yuppie Condo Mall at the Empire Stores site in DUMBO…And so did the co founder of Bed Bath & Beyond, Leonard Feinstein.

"Billionaire…Alexander Rovt donated to de Blasio last year, but his son Maxwell, who is the Chief of Real Estate for the family business, IBE Trade Corp, donated $4,950 to de Blasio this past cycle. (His mother and father each donated $2,475 the previous cycle, in addition to other contributions made last year.) Meanwhile, the Soros family—George, Alexander, Andrea, and Jonathan, donated a total of $13,025 last cycle.… Igor Medvedovsky, the general manager of Yellow Cab Medallion Company also donated $4,950 last month.

"As for Wall Street: Neil Mitchell, Morgan Stanley's private wealth executive director (and former senior VP at Lehman Brothers) donated $4,700 last cycle…"

Despite receiving a lot of money in campaign contributions from various labor union bureaucrats, de Blasio has also accepted big campaign contributions from the following individuals over the last few years:

1. $4,950 from William Zeckendorf of Brown Harris Stevens
2. $4,950 from Arthur Zeckendorf of Terra Holdings
3. 4,950 from Loudas Zoumas of The Avaris Group
4. $4,950 from Alen York of Alen Sands York Association
5. Over $4,950 from Joanne Wycott of Southampton, New York
6. $500 from Alice Wolf of Cambridge, Massachusetts
7. $4,950 from Gilbert Winn of Boston, Massachusetts
8. Over $4,950 from John Wilhelm of Santa Barbara, California
9. $4,950 from Victor Weingarten of Gotham Yellow Taxi
10. $3,475 from Rob Wavra of The Sentinel Homeland Security Group, Fairfax, Virginia
11. $4,500 from James Vasey of Cab Management Corporation
12. $2,500 from Michael Varner of JP Morgan Chase
13. Over $4,500 from Jeff Thamkittikasem of The Sentinel Homeland Security Group
14. $4,950 from Robert Tannenhauser of the Ruxton Capital Group
15. $4,500 from Carol Tannenhauser of the Ruxton Capital Group
16. $4,950 from Jay Snyder of HBJ Investment
17. $4,950 from Robert S. Rubin of JP Morgan Chase
18. $4,950 from Steven G. Rubenstein of Rubenstein Communications
19. $4,950 from John Rove of Columbia University
20. $4,950 from Nan Cooper Rothschild of Columbia University
21. $4,950 from the New York State Economic Growth PAC
22. $4.950 from Amy O'Donnell of Procter & Gamble
23. $4,950 from W. Patrick McMullan of Bear Stearns
24. $4,950 from Sanel Ljesnjanin of Millennium Taxi
25. $4,950 from David Kuperberg of Cooper Square Realty
26. $4,950 from Timothy Ingrarasa of Goldman Sachs
27. $4,950 from Neil Greenbaum of All Taxi
28. $4,950 from Howard Gottlieb of Glenwood Investment Capital
29. $4,950 from Eugeny Friedman of the Taxi Club
30. $4,950 from Alexander Durst of The Durst Organization
31. $400 from Cooper Union Trustee Jeffrey Gural.

So, substituting a Republican Party plutocrat from Medford, Massachusetts (who was backed by special Wall Street upper class economic interests) with an apparent phony from Cambridge, Massachusetts (who is a Democratic Party politician also backed by special business and real estate economic interests) in City Hall will not bring much economic equality, political freedom, apartment rent rollbacks or adequately paid 30 hour workweek jobs to most New Yorkers and New York City tenants in 2014.

And, substituting one phony male Clinton with one phony female Clinton in the White House in 2017 isn't likely to finally create a radically democratic society in either the Big Apple nor the

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AMERICA GROWS WEARY OF OBAMA

Continued from page 2

support, legislation such as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act which allows large media companies to track down people who download their material illegally by issuing subpoenas to Internet service providers forcing them to reveal the IP addresses of their customers. That bill passed, but even more repressive legislation that would have forced suppliers of encryption software and hardware to give the government back doors into their system was defeated in the Republican Congress. We should not expect Obama to simply relinquish powers that were handed down from his predecessors, be they Democratic or Republican, because as Orwell remarked, power is not assumed in order to be given up.

FOREIGN POLICY: WHAT ARE THEY THINKING

Does the U.S. government want to stop Islamic fundamentalists like Al Qaeda, or do they want to help them take over the world? It is difficult to figure this out from U.S. policy toward Syria, for example. If Assad falls, who will take over? Will it be these "democratic forces" that they keep talking about prevail, or will the country end up like Iraq, with the representatives of fundamentalist Islam so entrenched that Christianity and other religions can no longer exist and people of reason fear for their lives? Obama and his government are willing to wipe out all of our privacy in their zeal to fight Islamic fundamentalist terrorism, but for some reason known only to the U.S. government and their Israeli conjoined twin, the priority is getting rid of Assad, even if the hand of the Islamists is greatly strengthened and all of Assad's arsenal falls into their hands.

This is the same pattern that we saw in Iraq, under Bush rather than Obama, and in Libya with Obama and Hillary Clinton. Somebody decided long ago that U.S. policy was to get rid of Hussein, Khadafi, and ultimately Assad, and that goal has to be pursued even if it contradicts the more contemporary goal of eliminating Islamic terrorism.

The only reason why the government can act in such a self contradictory and indeed stupid manner is that it is poor people from the other side of the world, as well as our own poor hillbilly, Black, and Hispanic soldiers, who are getting killed. If it were the pampered kids of the U.S. ruling class and political class who were dying, they would all soon come to their senses. It would be better if they all simply minded their own business. The greatest argument for anarchism is that so called foreign policy would be abolished altogether and with it the incentive to wage war.

THE ALTERNATIVE GROWS

One of the things that activists feared would happen if someone with a left wing veneer like Obama got elected would be that activism would fall into decline and people would rely on Mr. O to fight for their rights. This has fortunately not happened. A new wave of activism started with the rise of Occupy Wall Street that has seeped into communities throughout America and raised questions that Obama and the rest of the politicians cannot ignore. Obama is a lame duck now, and since he no longer needs our votes he is free to capitulate more and more to the right wing even as the populace of this nation becomes more savvy and opts for genuine progress. Only by creating a groundswell from the bottom up can we protect our privacy, freedom, and livelihoods, and save ourselves from senseless war.

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION AND THE SECRET SERVICE WHITEWASH

Continued from page 17

their reports for Rowley, having obviously hashed out and clarified their stories so that they were all on the same page, the entire Secret Service must have been on high alert. J. Edgar Hoover had long coveted taking over presidential protection from the Secret Service and Kennedy's death may well have presented an opportunity. Palamara further contends that an ongoing conspiracy soon evolved to whitewash these derelictions of duty and to portray President Kennedy as a reckless and uncooperative subject who constantly stymied their efforts to protect him.

Blaine goes out of his way to insist that the new stand down "policy" or "Tampa Scenario," began in Tampa the week before the assassination, when he lifts the quote about "ivy league charlatans" from Manchester's book and embellishes it liberally: "He (Kennedy) suddenly bent down because of the motorcycle noise," purportedly to give Floyd Boring the word to stay off the back of the Lincoln. The whole purpose of the motorcade was political and Floyd knew that Kennedy did not want to be shielded from the public." After a few more sentences of superfluous disambiguation, Blaine gets to the point; "In the three years he'd been with JFK, he'd never heard the president call the agents off the back of the car in the middle of a motorcade. Apparently politics was trumping the Secret Service."

Even the Clint Eastwood movie "In the Line of Fire" embellishes and adds to this "death wish" myth when the psycho assassin played by John Malkovich declares to Clint Eastwood's Secret Service character "you wanted to station agents on his bumpers and sideboards: he refused. And do you know why I think he refused? He had a death wish." Somehow, the counter myth of Kennedy being a reckless, death-obsessed fatalist gained momentum over the years until it became accepted fact Kennedy's alleged decision to ban agents from the running boards and back of the car, combined with his so called obsession with death, has become so prevalent that it is even referred to in popular movies.

Although there is some truth to the often repeated notion that Kennedy was impulsive and had a tendency to rush toward crowds, especially women and groups of children, there are ample news pictures, video and film footage of the president well-protected by agents and local police on motorcycle during his trip to Tampa. There had been explicit intimations of threats against the president's life in Tampa by the likes of Joseph Milteer, who, not two weeks before, had been quoted as predicting Kennedy's being shot "from an office building with a high powered rifle" to an FBI informant. Why would Kennedy, as Blaine would have it, when his back was so delicate and he constantly wore a brace which inhibited his range of movements, "bend down" to give instructions to Floyd Boring ordering the agents to get off the back of the car? So that people could see his back as the Lincoln drove away?

Blaine, having admitted that Kennedy had never complained about agents standing on the back of the Lincoln, doesn't lend credence to his contention that Kennedy suddenly and arbitrarily made the demand for them to stay off in Tampa. His constant novelized recreations of conversations, exchanges between the president and other agents that he couldn't he couldn't possibly been privy to, while planting thoughts, emotions and motivations into the heads of his various secret service cohorts stretches credibility. Blaine is an old man on a mission. He makes it seem as if he were at the center of the chain of command, when he was a very junior agent with only a few years under his belt. Palamara contradicts Blaine with this exchange during his tape-recorded interview exchange with Floyd Boring, who seems to suggest how he may have inadvertently created the impression that Kennedy wanted the agents off of the back of the Lincoln: "No, no, no that's not true…(JFK) was a very easy going guy…he didn't interfere with our actions at all. He actually—No, I told them… He didn't tell them anything…He just—I looked at the back and I seen these fellas were hanging on the limousine—I told them to return to the car." Palamara also provides other evidence to refute the Tampa Scenario.

Perhaps the most salient testimony comes from former Florida Congressman Samuel Melville Gibbons who was in the limousine with Senator George Smathers and Kennedy during Tampa motorcade and stated to Palamara by letter that, "I rode with Kennedy every time he rode. I heard no such order. As I remember it, the agents rode on the rear bumper all the way." Is it possible that a misunderstanding about Boring's actions developed into a full blown cover story once the worst had happened and Kennedy was dead? Ultimately, the Tampa scenario takes on the aspect of a hastily scripted alibi, as does the use of the phrase "Ivy League charlatans" which smacks of an embarrassing attempt at literary license to imitate Kennedy's style and sense of humor.

Blaine even provides a convenient answer to explain the famous footage taken at Love Field showing Agent Don Lawton trailing the President's Lincoln being told to "stand down" by Emory Roberts. Apparently, Lawton is simply saying, "It's all yours now, guys. I've done my job. Now get out of here so I can have some lunch?" as he waved his arms at Roberts in bewilderment. If you view the increasing vehemence of Lawton's protestations as he raises his arms three times you can certainly interpret the urgency and bewilderment otherwise.

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- The Kennedy Detail by Gerald Blaine
- Death of A President by William Manchester

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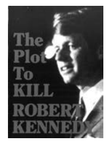

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